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Man allegedly tried to strangle wife. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Wage hike skips 97 PSS instructors

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

About 10 percent of CNMI public school instructors did not get the salary increases they were supposed to get under the compensation plan the Board of Education adopted back in October 2017.

The news stunned the entire board during its meeting yesterday.

Lucretia Borja, the PSS Human Resources director, told the board that about 97 individuals from about 1,000 PSS instructors were excluded from the compensation pay that the board adopted at the October 2017 board meeting.

See WAGE on Page 4

Lease renewal for IT&E still in the works

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After several months of back-and-forth between the Department of Public Lands and the office of Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), the lease renewal for a telecommunications company has yet to be agreed upon even after the expiry of the main 25-year lease.

Unresolved conflicts between the office of Igitol, who chairs the

See LEASE on Page 4

Stephen Hawking, best-known physicist of his time, has died

By ROBERT BARR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ON THE NET
- Hawking's website: http://www.hawking.org.uk

LONDON (AP)—Stephen Hawking, whose brilliant mind ranged across time and space though his body was paralyzed by disease, died early Wednesday, a University of Cam-

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In this March 30, 2015 file photo, Professor Stephen Hawking arrives for the Interstellar Live show at the Royal Albert Hall in central London. AP

BEA CABRERA

Standing, from left, Jay Santos, Five Star Wholesale & Truckload Store general manager; Aoki Atsushi, Triple J Saipan, Inc. Restaurants general manager; Mario Valentino, Triple J Construction, Inc./NMTI board member; Tracy Guerrero, Triple J Saipan, Inc. corporate controller; Galina Iakimova, Saipan Surfrider Hotel Resort front desk manager; MariaValentina Haberman, Triple J Saipan, Inc. marketing manager; Frank Rabauliman, NMTI director of Administrative Services, Grants and Finances; and Perry Inos, Triple J Saipan, Inc. business manager. Seated, from left, NMTI board chair John Oliver Gonzales; NMTI CEO Agnes McPhetres; Robert H. Jones, Triple J Enterprises, chairman/CEO; and Frank Ada, Triple J Saipan, Inc. director of Human Resources yesterday at the Surf Club in Chalan Kanoa.

Convincing people to stay

By BEA CABRERA
CORRESPONDENT

Convincing island residents not to leave would require, at the very least, having a job here.

That would mean being taught about that job, getting hands-on learning to gain the rudiments of doing that job, and eventually being hired to perform that job.

That is what Triple J Saipan, Inc. would be striving to do with the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. The two inked a memorandum of agreement yesterday, with the ultimate goal of making local residents stay in the CNMI by developing the workforce and expanding job oppor-

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President Donald Trump dumped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson via Twitter.

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British police take charge of the investigation into the death of a Russian man.

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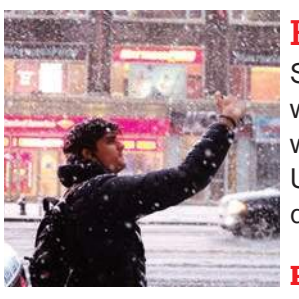

ENVIRONMENT
Study on Arctic warmth and winter weather across the U.S. draws heated debate.

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Local

CHCC board approves $900K solar power project

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees approved last week the first phase of a solar power project that would make the hospital less reliant on non-renewable energy.

The project is worth $903,301 and will allow the Commonwealth Health Center to produce 160 kilowatts of its own power from solar panels that will be erected on the south side of the hospital's parking lot.

CHCC program director Warren Villagomez said they have awarded the contract to build Phase 1 of the solar power project to Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI. MRE beat two other companies for the contract.

"Micronesia Renewable Energy was identified as the most responsive based on our specifications provided and guided by U.S. Public Health Service Corp and [National Renewable Energy Laboratory]. The company's background and credibility is very strong," he told board members during a board meeting last March 7 at the CHCC conference room.

Villagomez said that, once CHCC implements its solar power project, it would have one of only a handful of buildings in the region to tap into the renewable resource for its energy needs.

He said the Guam Memorial Hospital emergency room just finished their solar power project and the Palau hospital and airport also have solar power panels installed in their structures.

The first phase of CHCC's solar power project will be partially funded by a $560,000 grant provided by the Department of the Interior, according to CHCC CEO Esther Muña.

That leaves CHCC short of $342,301, which the CHCC board members temporarily agreed to source from the fiscal year 2019 budget request from the Legislature.

Board member William Cing said that Muña and Villagomez should also look into Capital Improvement Project funds to bridge the shortfall.

Aside from CIP monies, Muña has also approached the Division of Energy if they can help fund the project.

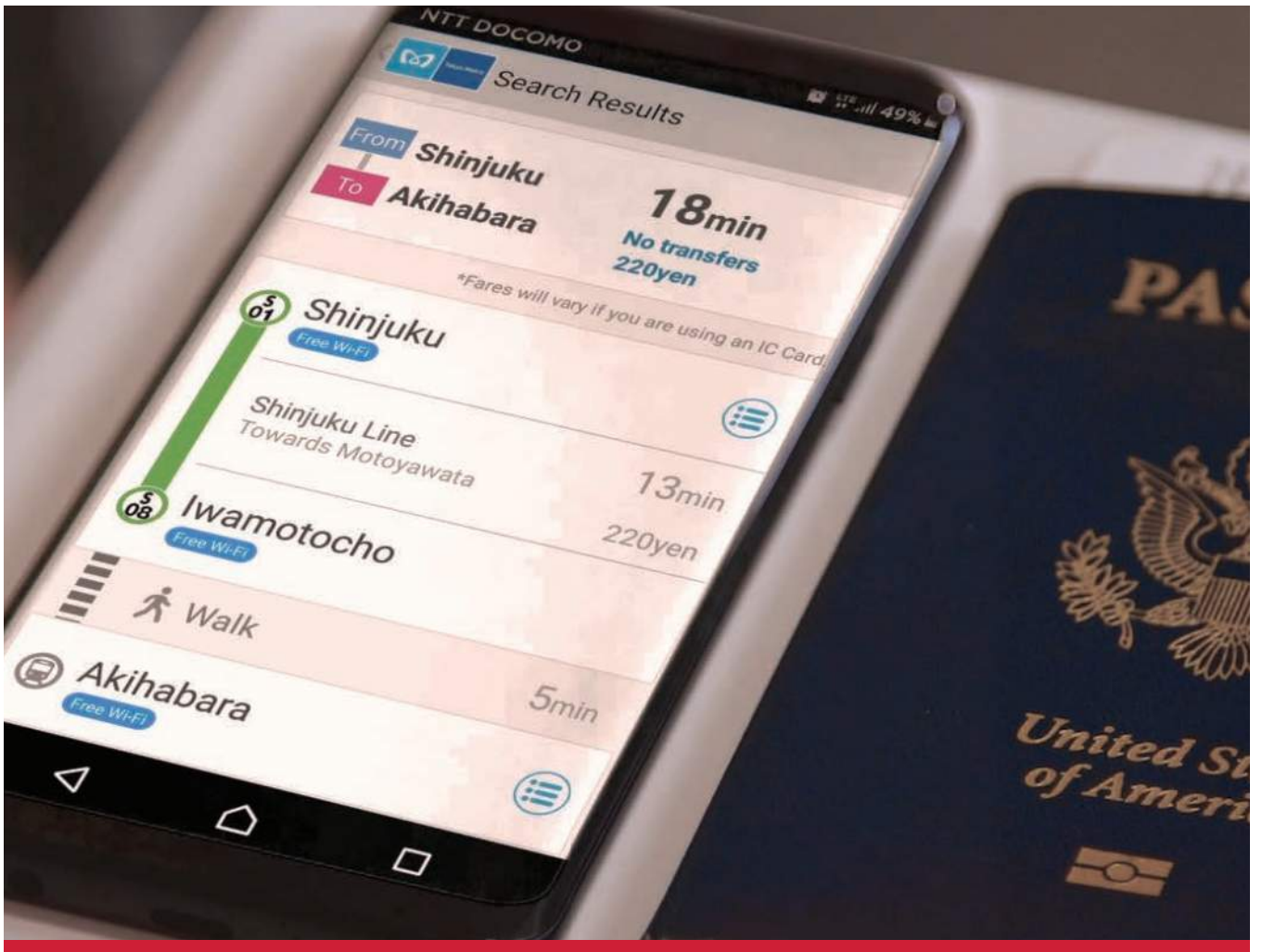
"[Let's] put [the shortfall] in the budget [request] so the [Legislature] will know what we're asking for. They'll know that we have a plan. If there's funding, then we can use that money… We need a safety net," said Cing.

CHCC chief financial officer Derek Sasamoto also suggested that the hospital tap its uncompensated care request for the fiscal year 2019 budget to finance the power project.

In CHCC's $29.8-million budget request for fiscal year 2019, $15,555,006 is under uncompensated care.

In the end, all board members approved to include the $342,301 needed to complete Phase 1 of the solar power project in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

"[We] approved it but with the condition that we will continue to work with CIP or the Division of Energy to look for additional funding for Phase 1," said board member David Rosario.



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Better Together

Leak adjustment for utility bill studied

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Senate committee is reviewing the possibility of having utility bills adjusted to take into account possible leaks that boost the amount owed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Public Utilities and Transportation Committee is currently reviewing Sen. Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 20-80, which seeks to allow customers who meet certain conditions that point at the possibility of a leak at their end of the meter, such as getting a bill that excessively exceeds the customer's average monthly usage of water over the previous year; who has had a leak occur on their side of the meter; and who has provided proof confirming that the leak was repaired.

These may make these CUC customers eligible for a financial adjustment to their water or waste water charges if validated.

The bill further provides that leak adjustments would cover no more than two consecutive months and only one financial adjustment may be associated to billed usage every two years.

Tinian Municipal Council member Antonio San Nicolas Borja supports the legislation. He finds the bill "reasonable and fair."

"Establishing water or water waste leak adjustment on the utility bill of all CUC consumers in the CNMI could really help people and families who are burdened from all these unexplained increases in water and sewage leak," he said, adding that passage of the bill would allow everyone to meet other financial obligations.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, in his comments, supported the legislation as well after referring to the two-month adjustment period as "reasonable" due to the fact that other mentioned conditions for the adjustment prevented "substantial loss for CUC."

CUC, however, is not happy with the legislation. According to CUC executive director Gary Camacho, CUC is required to act at full cost recovery to "meet its daily expenditure obligations for providing power, water, and wastewater services to every customer."

"CUC's responsibility ends at the meter as its rate structure accounts for costs incurred to this point only. The lost income from a water leak and subsequent wastewater assessment is not considered in CUC's rate structure and therefore, would be an additional burden to all consumers," Camacho said.

He further pointed out that a dispute process was in place if the consumer is dissatisfied with CUC's response to the dispute. "This administrative process also provides for either a formal or an informal settlement of a claim that high water charges are a result of a leak which has been repaired within a reasonable time after detection," he said, adding that it also provides enough opportunity for a consumer to present evidence related to the "reasonableness and fairness of a billing, which include water usage during the period of a leak."

The committee tabled the bill in order to follow up on CUC's comments. According to Igisomar, CUC's comments were obtained after the committee adjourned.

PSS students with incomplete vaccinations face suspension

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System is in the process of sending out suspension notices to over 200 students who are not compliant with immunization requirements.

During the Board of Education meeting yesterday, acting Education commissioner Glenn Muña brought to the board's attention that many students are non-compliant with PSS' immunization rules.

In a later interview with Muña, he said it is the PSS' right to suspend students who are non-compliant with any rules and regulation and being complete with immunization shots is one of them.

Muña said he has already started giving out notices to parents to inform them that a student will be suspended if a child does not comply with immunization requirements and is not up-to-date with their vaccination shots in the next two weeks.

According to Muña, a complete list of immunization shots is a required document to enroll in PSS. It is required that this list is kept up-to-date and that students complete all the vaccines required of their age.

However, students who have already enrolled once no longer need to show proof of immunization as they no longer need to undergo the entire application process. Muña said this could be the case for many students who have been found non-compliant with PSS' immunization policy.

It is also a factor that, as a student ages within PSS, they and their parents lose track of their required shots, and are therefore considered non-compliant.

A Division Public Health investigation first discovered that about 1,400 students are non-compliant with immunization. Since DPH started visiting campuses to do rounds of immunizations, the number has dropped to about 295 and Muña reported yesterday that and he is quite happy about the significant drop.

Of the remaining chunk of students who are still non-compliant, about 120 are from Marianas High School.

Muña said 120 is a small number considering that MHS is the most populated school on Saipan, with about 1,600 students.

According to Muña, he is also working on getting DPH to do one more round of vaccinations on campuses that need them for the convenience of both the students and parents.

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Triple J Motors, Saipan

Fernandez opposes naming building after McPhetres

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Dr. Carmen Fernandez is against renaming one of the buildings of the Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje campus after the college's former president, Agnes McPhetres.

In her comments on House Speaker Rafael Demapan's (R-Saipan) bill, the current president, Fernandez said this could jeopardize the college's accreditation.

House Bill 20-133 would rename Building P in the Saipan campus as the "Agnes Manglona McPhetres Administrative Building."

Fernandez stated in her letter that while she agrees with the aim of the bill, H.B. 20-133 remains unconstitutional, citing Section 2(a) of Article XV of the Commonwealth Constitution. Fernandez said the CNMI Constitution states that, "The Board of Regents shall…have autonomy in the administration of [the college's] affairs."

Fernandez also pointed out that previous Commonwealth Supreme Court rulings have recognized NMC as an autonomous agency.

Fernandez said she believes it is up to the NMC Board of Regents to decide the "most appropriate action to honor [McPhetres'] pivotal role in the success of the college."

"We raise these issues about autonomy because, in the past several years, legislative interference has resulted in adverse actions by NMC's accrediting body. And, while House Bill 12-122 means well, it may be viewed as political interference because it attempts to assume duties that rightfully belong to the NMC Board of Regents," she said, adding that the college is in a "good place with regard to accreditation" and that she wishes to "prevent any [sanctions] from being levied against NMC."

According to Fernandez's letter, NMC is currently clear of sanctions.

Rep. Edwin Aldan (R-Saipan), a member of the House Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee, disagrees. According to Aldan, McPhetres deserves "recognition [for] her efforts."

Aldan said he fails to see any adverse effects on NMC's accreditation pertaining to the renaming of a building.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) pointed out that a building within the NMC campus was previously named after someone as well.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who was acting chair in the absence of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), said the committee would table the bill while their legal counsel reviews NMC's claim.

STEPHEN

From Page 1

bridge spokesman said. He was 76 years old.

Hawking died peacefully at his home in Cambridge, England.

The best-known theoretical physicist of his time, Hawking wrote so lucidly of the mysteries of space, time and black holes that his book, "A Brief History of Time," became an international best seller, making him one of science's biggest celebrities since Albert Einstein.

"He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years," his children Lucy, Robert and Tim said in a statement. "He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years. His courage and persistence with his brilliance and humour inspired people across the world. He once said, 'It would not be much of a universe if it wasn't home to the people you love.' We will miss him forever."

Even though his body was attacked by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, when Hawking was 21, he stunned doctors by living with the normally fatal illness for more than 50 years. A severe attack of pneumonia in 1985 left him breathing through a tube, forcing him to communicate through an electronic voice synthesizer that gave him his distinctive robotic monotone.

But he continued his scientific work, appeared on television and married for a second time.

As one of Isaac Newton's successors as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, Hawking was involved in the search for the great goal of physics—a "unified theory."

Such a theory would resolve the contradictions between Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, which describes the laws of gravity that govern the motion of large objects like planets, and the Theory of Quantum Mechanics, which deals with the world of subatomic particles.

For Hawking, the search was almost a religious quest—he said finding a "theory of everything" would allow mankind to "know the mind of God."

CONVINCING

From Page 1

tunities for them.

The joint endeavor seeks to benefit both Triple J employees and NMTI students: the former will get additional training to become more competent in their jobs and the latter, assured job placement at Triple J and its affiliated companies after study and on-the-job training experience.

The program will help students be certified for entry-level positions that includes front desk representative, restaurant server, maintenance employee, guestroom attendant, and kitchen cook. The certifications are being done in partnership with the American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute.

According to Triple J president and COO Robert Jones, they are working with NMTI to respond to the needs of the CNMI tourism industry.

"We started working with them a couple of months ago. …We don't know what's going to happen really with the CWs and so we are doing what we can to train locals. We already have about 70 percent local employees…and we are doing everything that we can to increase that percentage," he said.

"We believe that NMTI students, after proper training, will fill the need of our restaurants so this is pretty critical and we are looking forward to this partnership. [NMTI CEO] Agnes (McPheters) and her team are doing a good job with our staff and hopefully we can improve the service to the people of Saipan through this schooling," he added.

Jones, whose company has been in business on island for many years, believes that the future of the CNMI lies in its tourism industry.

"In the past many years, tourism is our main economic factor and I would encourage…people to consider the food and beverage industry because it's here to stay. We have new tourists from China and South Korea and still quite a few Japanese coming and so we need to do all we can to be able to properly serve them in a satisfactory manner," he said.

"Satisfied tourists will tell other tourists about their Saipan experience. This way, we can increase our tourism industry when we have tourists leaving the island happy. We don't want tourists to have a bad experience, so good food, price, and service go together and we are continually improving and working on those," he added.

Triple J has six restaurants in operation and the need for employees is always there.

"We need people to fill positions that our restaurants need," he said. "The tourism industry is very dynamic and we want to be able to keep up, that's why we need employees and it doesn't only helps us, it helps the economy."

McPheters said that this partnership with Triple J opens job opportunities to anyone who wants to put in the hard work.

"It is not just about training people but training for job placement. The students are assured of a job after study… The partnership will cater to 30 culinary students per year as there will be at least 10 students per cohort," she said.

"NMTI and private companies are here for everyone," she added

NMTI board chair John Oliver Gonzalez said that aside from training the future workforce, NMTI is doing its part to gain more recognition from accrediting institutions.

"Currently, our programs are U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship certified…as well as other national certifications. However, we want to extend and expand as a recognized trade institution," he said. "The goal of the board is [for NMTI] to be an accredited institution where more opportunities to acquire federal financial assistance and grants can be achieved and have a high standard so our students will stay in the CNMI."

WAGE

From Page 1

Borja's report stated that the pay of the 97 instructors remain frozen, while the rest of the instructors saw an increase in their salaries this fiscal year.

That's because the 97 instructors are not certified, and therefore did not meet the requirement for the salary increase.

Despite this, upon learning the news, Board of Education vice chair Alice Tenorio said the remaining instructors should still receive the increase they were promised.

She went as far as holding back on voting for an alternative certification process (the alternative certification process repeals the need for a Praxis 1 test to become a certified instructor) until it was confirmed that the 97 uncompensated instructors would benefit from it.

PSS instructors, certified or not, have not seen a raise in salaries since 1992.

Tenorio told other board members that it was not fair to penalize the 97 instructors and "rob them of their compensation pay" just because of their lack of certification when they have been working for PSS for nearly a decade.

Although Tenorio also voted to approve the compensation plan back in October, she stated during yesterday's board meeting that she was under the impression that it was a blanket increase, meaning that it applied to every instructor regardless of their credentials. Tenorio said she was not made aware until yesterday that only certified instructors were qualified for the compensation increase.

To resolve the issue, the board unanimously adopted the alternative certification process that would apply to new PSS applicants and could be applied to the remaining 97 instructors. Once the 97 instructors pass the alternative certification and are certified, they will be given a higher pay rate.

LEASE

From Page 1

House Committee on Natural Resources, and DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo further delays Pacific Telecom Inc.'s request for a 15-year lease renewal.

The company, which does business as IT&E, has yet to have its lease extension approved, as Igitol disputes Teregeyo's decisions surrounding the extension.

According to a Feb. 13, 2018, letter from Igitol to DPL, the agency's removal of certain provisions within the contract agreement in favor of PTI could also be amended in favor of those of Northern Marianas descent.

"Given this, why does DPL insist on following the terms of the lease strictly on the one hand, while it deletes revenue-generating provisions on the other?" asked Igitol in her letter. In the same letter, she questions how much the Marianas Public Land Trust Fund has "lost in terms of revenue" that could have been paid pursuant to the deleted provision.

In a previous letter dated Jan. 24, 2018, Teregeyo informed Igitol that DPL and PTI amended the June 28, 1990, and Sept. 21, 1990, lease agreements to delete the Gross Receipt Rental provision of the agreements. The amendment relieves PTI of having to pay a specific rate based on their gross receipt rentals based on revenue generated in the leased area. PTI's property did not affect the revenue stream of PTI.

In response to Igitol's Feb. 13, 2018 letter questioning the amendment, Teregeyo clarified in a Feb. 26, 2018, letter that the amendment was done back in 2006.

"The original lease included a percentage of BGR component of rent. However, the original lease was amended in 2006 to exclude it. In other words, it was taken out before the lease's expiration date, which we have clearly and repeatedly explained to you and [the] House legal counsel," she said, referring to a joint meeting with the House and the Senate early January 2018.

"Why it was taken out in 2006 is unknown and why it was not reinstated prior to expiration in 2015 is also unknown," she later stated.

Teregeyo further explained that Attorney General Edward Manibusan advised the department that the leases as amended is the "document to follow" due to the proposed renewals being a continuation of existing leases not to exceed 40 years.

"…It was partly DPL's fault for not addressing the extension in 2015—as requested by PTI—prior to the expiration of the lease (as amended)," wrote Teregeyo.

Teregeyo added in the same letter that she agrees with Igitol that DPL should have performed a study to base the removal of the gross receipt rental provision in the lease agreement.

"…DPL should have performed such analysis to base its decision to remove the percentage of BGR rent at that time. It did not. Why it was taken out in 2006 is unknown," Teregeyo wrote to Igitol.

Igitol again sent a March 6 letter to the DPL secretary in response, reiterating that her actions were based entirely on "what I believe is best for our people of Northern Marianas descent."

"Before we enter into another 15-year contract, we all need to do right for our NMDs," said Igitol, adding that both DPL and her office cannot "ignore our responsibility to them to secure the best possible terms for their land leases."

Igitol stated that DPL in their Feb. 26, 2018, response to her office did not provide a cost-benefit analysis on the provision's exclusion.

"DPL admits that it should have done an analysis. But after failing to do so, DPL still asserts that it is performing its due diligence today. How so?" asked Igitol. "DPL should determine how much will be 'waived' in the proposed 15-year extension before it takes a firm position that this potential revenue stream should be excluded from the next 15-year term," she continued.

Igitol told *Saipan Tribune* in a brief interview that she intends to meet with Manibusan to "finalize the issue."

Poker machines owner, operator re-file suit vs govt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner and operator of poker machines re-filed on Monday their lawsuit against the CNMI government and Commonwealth Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco to stop them from enforcing a Saipan local law that shuts down poker parlors in residential villages.

Sin Ho Nam, Winnerslife Inc., and Dan Bi Choi LLC, through counsel Robert T. Torres, added Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson as a co-defendant in the lawsuit in Superior Court.

Nam, Winnerslife, and Dan Bi Choi LLC are suing for violation of due process.

They want the court to stop the government from enforcing Saipan Local Law 18-5, known as the Saipan Adult Machine Business Zoning Law of 2013, and a declaration that enforcing the law interferes with and will deprive them of protected interests.

They also asked the court to prohibit the enforcement of the Saipan Zoning Law against all of them and the imposition of any fines until they are heard and the case is closed.

In the event they are unable to operate their businesses, they want the court to declare them entitled to the unused portion of their license fees.

Nam is a Korean national who has had a business certificate in the CNMI since 2008. He changed the corporate name of his Sin Ho Development Inc. to Winnerslife Inc.

Dan Bin Choi LLC currently operates a number of poker machines owned by Nam and Winnerslife. Choi LLC was described as manager for Winnerslife.

The lawsuit was originally filed in Superior Court last year but the CNMI government and Blanco had the court action moved to the federal court.

Last December, the federal court denied their request for a preliminary injunction to stop the CNMI government and Blanco from enforcing the law.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ruled that because the claims of plaintiffs are not ripe, their lawsuit is dismissed without prejudice, which means the plaintiffs can re-file the case.

Manglona said the claim that zoning laws deprive the plaintiffs of their constitutionally protected property is unripe.

Winnerslife owns 19 poker machines that are licensed to operate in the CNMI. For each license, Winnerslife pays the Commonwealth an annual licensing fee of $12,000.

In the re-filed lawsuit in the Superior Court, Torres said that, following the federal court's dismissal of the lawsuit, the Zoning board presented plaintiffs with a form (developed on Nov. 20, 2017) to once again apply for an extension of time to relocate.

Torres said the Zoning board insisted that the form be completed in 48 hours, complete with documents, and presented for a hearing on Jan. 18, 2018.

Torres said the plaintiffs submitted their new form as required, attaching a binder of documents as evidence that they satisfied the form's criteria.

Torres said that, at a hotly contested meeting attended by several legislators, a number of business owners as well as community members, the Zoning board denied every request of owners and operators of poker arcades for more time to relocate.

He said the Zoning administrator took the position that, if requests for extension were submitted after April 2017, the request for extension would not be granted.

Following protests from members of the Legislature, members of the community, and business owners impacted by the board's decision, Torres said the board reversed itself to allow plaintiffs and others similarly situated to present more documents and an analysis showing that they were unable to recoup their investments within the time given by law.

Torres said the board failed to specify precisely what additional documentation it needed.

He said the board failed to specify what documents would be required to show the business was not a public nuisance, and failed to specify what factors it was considering in determining whether a business had "recouped its investments."

Torres said the board further declined to specify the criteria and rationale it would use in requiring a business owner to "amortize" its investments.

Prior to the Feb. 21, 2018, hearing, Torres said, plaintiffs nevertheless submitted documentation to the board to establish that they were lawful entities.

Prior to the Feb. 21 hearing, Torres said, plaintiffs retained financial consultant Antonio S. Muna to review and analyze their business records and prepare a report explaining that as of Dec. 31, 2017, they had yet to recover the basis of their investments and detailing why more time was needed to do so.

Torres said that, although Muna attended the hearing, no board member bothered to raise a concern or ask for more information.

The board issued an agenda for the Feb. 21, 2018 meeting indicating it would take up 14 applications for extension of the deadline.

He said the board had prepared a proposed order before the meeting that was not on the agenda.

At the Feb. 21, 2018, meeting, Torres said, the board announced that it was going into executive session and asked all attendees to vacate the premises.

Torres said no announcement of any statutorily excepted reason was provided for the executive session.

Torres said ignoring documents provided to the board prior to its January hearing, including business licenses and business gross receipt tax records and other documents reflecting the nature and amount of plaintiffs' investments, the Zoning board summarily denied plaintiffs' application for an extension.

He said the board denied the application on grounds that it was not timely.

Torres said he objected to the proposed order, questioning whether the board had bothered to review Muña's analysis. He said the board responded that the application was untimely.

Following its summary denial of the application, Torres said, the board referred the matter to the attorney general to enjoin any continued operation of the poker operations and to collect civil fines of $1,000 per day for violations since Oct. 25, 2017 unless plaintiff certified that all gaming operations outside of the "permitted zone" ceased.

Torres said plaintiffs also submitted testimony pointing out their efforts to seek alternative locations for operating their business.

This testimony, he said, as well as the report of Muña, explained why relocation was not feasible even if suitable properties could be located.

In addition, the lawyer said, Winnerslife pointed out that if their businesses were forced to shut down, they would lose unexpired machine license fees totaling $108,558 as well as income from continued operation through the term of Dan Bi Choi LLC's business license.

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16 take oath as newest US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, Benton County Oregon District lawyer John M. Haroldson, and Immigration Services officer Teres U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, Benton County Oregon District lawyer John M. Haroldson, and Immigration Services officer Teresa Vega-Murietta pose for a group photo with the 16 new U.S. citizens during the naturalization ceremony at the District Court yesterday morning. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

For Oscar Rene Padilla Mejia, who is a native of Honduras, gaining his U.S. citizenship now allows him to vote and avail of its many other benefits.

Mejia, 28, got his citizenship because of his father, who obtained his citizenship a long time ago. Mejia first arrived Virginia in 2007 when he was 17 years old. That was where he met Kimberly Sablan, a resident of Saipan who was working there at that time.

Mejia and Sablan have three children together. When Sablan decided to return to Saipan with the children in 2010, Mejia followed them. Mejia currently works as a mechanic at Saipan Stevedore Co.

For Remy Leon Jean Lou Badier, who hails from Brittany, France, he considers Saipan to be his home now.

"This is my home actually now. I live on Saipan," said the 55-year-old Badier, who first arrived in 2010.

Badier obtained his citizenship through his wife, Maria Theresa, a U.S. citizen. The couple have an apartment business on the island.

Mejia and Badier were among the 16 persons from five countries who became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday morning.

Majority of the 16 were from the Philippines; the rest were from South Korea, People's Republic of China, France, and Honduras.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presided over the ceremony.

John Haroldson, the first Latino elected to serve as district attorney for Benton County, Oregon, served as the guest speaker.

Haroldson is on Saipan for a two-day training offered for drug court professionals in the CNMI and Guam through the Adult Drug Court Training Initiative.

Haroldson said it's a great honor just to share the moment with the new citizens. He shared the story of his family's journey and his own journey to become Oregon's district attorney.

"Today's ceremony really touches my heart because of my own family's journey, and my own journey in becoming the first Latino district attorney to serve the State of Oregon," he said in an interview.

The son of a Scandinavian father and a Mexican mother, Haroldson was raised both in the Pacific Northwest and in Monterrey, Mexico. He has served as a prosecutor since 1988 and is a strong advocate for drug treatment court.

"I am Mexican and a U.S. citizen and, through that journey, I really came to appreciate what all these means and it's so special to me to be here," he said.

Haroldson counseled the new citizens to make their story known, to use their citizenship to be engaged and to share their talents.

Aside from Mejia and Badier, the other new citizens are Gabby Sotto Cabrera, Nelia Bagabaldo Espeleta, Barbara Apilado Galvez, Rufino Reyes Galvez, Nelly Notario Iglecias, Dan Daryl Timario Jovelo, Mercedes Aquino Landicho, Agnes Dela Cruz Manacop, Fernando Agulay Martin, Leonora Soliman Orpiano, Ulysses Bag Ao Orpiano, Congxiang Su Palacios, Choo Hwa Kang Saures, and Alicia Caro Zulueta.

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Man allegedly tried to strangle wife

An intoxicated 63-year-old man allegedly choked his wife during an argument over leftover rice at their home in Kagman III last Friday night.

Francisco F. Mettao was arrested for assault and battery, false arrest, and disturbing the peace.

At his initial appearance hearing on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted assistant attorney general Frances Demapan's motion to release Mettao from custody.

Govendo prohibited him from drinking any alcoholic beverages and ordered him not to have any contact with his wife.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 19 at 1:30pm.

According to police, two officers responded to a call about a domestic violence incident at a home in Kagman III Friday night and met the victim, who had bruising on her arms, back, chest, and neck.

The victim told police that her husband stopped her from leaving their home after an argument, then choked her in their bedroom.

She stated that when Mettao had just arrived after a night of drinking and wanted to eat, but got upset upon finding out that there was no more leftover rice.

As the victim attempted to leave to avoid an argument, Mettao allegedly grabbed her by the head and pulled her back. She then tried to run to the bedroom but Mettao allegedly pushed her onto the bed and tried to strangle her.

The victim then called the police for assistance after he got off from her.

Police officers arrived and arrested Mettao.

In an interview with Mettao at the Department of Corrections last Saturday, the suspect allegedly admitted that his right forearm was on his wife's neck and that he pinned her down as he was trying to take the car keys away from her so she would not leave. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

E-CITATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, signs House Bill 20-3, SD1 into law, as he is joined by the bill's author, Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, and Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero. The bill, now Public Law 20-45, amends and repeals provisions of the Vehicle Code to allow for e-citation implementation.

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MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The position is responsible for the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Candidates should have knowledge in the maintenance field, possess excellent communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work flexible hours. Interested applicants must have a high school diploma/ GED or its equivalents; Completion of a craft apprenticeship or an equivalent number of years of education and production maintenance experience is preferred not required; Two or more years of strong hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, industrial, and electrical skills with some HVAC experience is a plus.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

This position is responsible for computing, classifying, and recording numerical data to keep financial records complete. Interested and qualified candidates should be highly motivated with strong communication and organizational skills and be proficient in MS Excel. Some practical work experience in finance is desired; Accounting background is preferred not required.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, March 23, 2018. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: PMB 1009 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950

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COTA taps Hawaii transportation expertise

Leveraging its partnership with the Department of Transportation Services of Honolulu, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is adopting the department's best practices in transit service planning and development.

Alfreda P. Camacho, the special assistant for Public Transportation, said the Honolulu Transit Authority continues to play a guiding role in the development of public transit on the islands.

"Using their model of professional and policy development, we're able to better plan and address the needs of our community. This partnership has proved advantageous and we've taken valuable knowledge from their practices and continue to work to adapt them here," she said.

She said Jon Y. Nouchi, the deputy director of the Department of Transportation Services, has been a key part of this collaboration.

According to community planner Diego B. Songsong, Hawaii represents the best of public transit in the Pacific region.

"Recalling the sentiments of Mr. Nouchi, recognizing the value of best practices and lessons is a critical first step. We're managed under the same Federal Transit Administration Region as Hawaii, so we've mirrored our planning stages for the much-needed fixed-route transit system. Using the insight from Hawaii's over 100 years of public transit experience, we're able to adapt based on our current resources," Songsong said.

Camacho said the Hawaii partnership will be key to developing the phases of Saipan's fixed flex system in the coming months, adding that a team from Honolulu will soon travel to Saipan to conduct peer reviews.

"In the months ahead, we are committed to ensuring the environmental, economic, and social wellbeing of transit. We know that incorporating sustainability practices throughout our planning, design, construction and operations is important which is why we are maintaining this proactive stance to help us reach our goal," Camacho said.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration grant program primarily funds COTA.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who earlier stated the need for public transportation, recognizes that this development will occur in phases.

"We are already aware of the geographic and transportation challenges, in addition to economic challenges of the Commonwealth. I am very pleased that COTA has still taken the steps to leverage the resources of working models in our region. I reiterate that public transportation in the Commonwealth is a long-term development that'll benefit our community in terms of employment access and community development. …I am committed to this need, and acknowledge COTA's diligence in seeking the most cost-effective route to make this a reality," Torres said. ***(PR)***

Close Up program gets $900,000

WASHINGTON—U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech has authorized a payment of $900,000 for fiscal year 2018 funding of the Close Up Insular Area Program.

This year's program will bring approximately 190 high school-aged students from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau, to Washington, D.C. for civic education programs alongside their peers from the 50 states.

Funding would also support an additional 240 students participating in youth summits across the island areas.

"The goal of this program is to highlight models of American democratic institutions and to foster in youth the interest, knowledge, and skills needed to effectively participate in a democracy," said Domenech. "Bringing the students from the islands allows them to have critical exchange and sharing experiences with students from the States."

The Close Up Insular Area program was first funded by the U.S. Congress in 1987 when House and Senate Appropriations Committee leadership decided to support students from the then-recently dissolved Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The program was expanded to include American Samoa and later the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For the past 30 years, Close Up has brought nearly 10,000 students and educators from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states, to the Washington, D.C. area to see and study first-hand democratic institutions such as Congress, the Executive and Judiciary branches, Embassy Row, the Pentagon, Quantico, Mount Vernon, Monticello, and more.

In addition to the Washington-based programs, Close Up groups have also visited New York City and Philadelphia, and held youth summits in the island areas, providing opportunities for students to learn about and develop policy recommendations related to issues being addressed by local legislatures. The program also provides civic courses and training material for island area educators during the Washington, D.C. trip.

The Close Up Insular Area Program continues to be widely supported by congressional delegates and ambassadors of the freely associated states who represent the island areas served and is supported through the Technical Assistance Program of the Office of Insular Affairs in the Department of the Interior. ***(DOI)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission's Hearing Room located in San Jose Village on Tinian.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (January 23, 2018)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee
5. Appeals Ad-Hoc Committee (GPPC Appeal: SIA ARFF Training Center)

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Concession Regulations
2. Establishment of new Airline Incentive Program
3. IGS Lease
4. Rota Airport Canopy Replacement
5. Write-off of Bad Debt
6. Micronesia Air Express (MAX)

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
• Legal Counsel Report: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors
March 14, 2018

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the
CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 15, 2018

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding a proposed rule to implement decisions of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The proposed action would put into place (1) limits on fishing effort by U.S. purse seine fishing vessels in the U.S. exclusive economic zone and on the high seas between the latitudes of 20º N and 20ºS in the Convention Area, (2) restrictions on the use of fish aggregating devices by U.S. purse seine vessels, and (3) prohibitions on transshipment in the Eastern High Seas Special Management Area (EHSSMA) and additional corrections to the regulatory text of the EHSSMA. More information on the proposed action can be found on the DCRM website at https://crm.gov.mp/our -programs/permitting/federal-consistency/.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on March 15, 2018 and ending on March 29, 2018 in order to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies and still allow DCRM to issue its concurrence or objection within thethirty (30) day requested response period. We thank you for your input.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW18-IFB-013

AS-TEO ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **As-Teo Road and Drainage Improvement**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **March 8, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 27, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **April 3, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, **Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-013"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:30 a.m. local time April 6, 2018.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. local time, April 6, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 6, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 17, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, April 20, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on April 6, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Ten (210) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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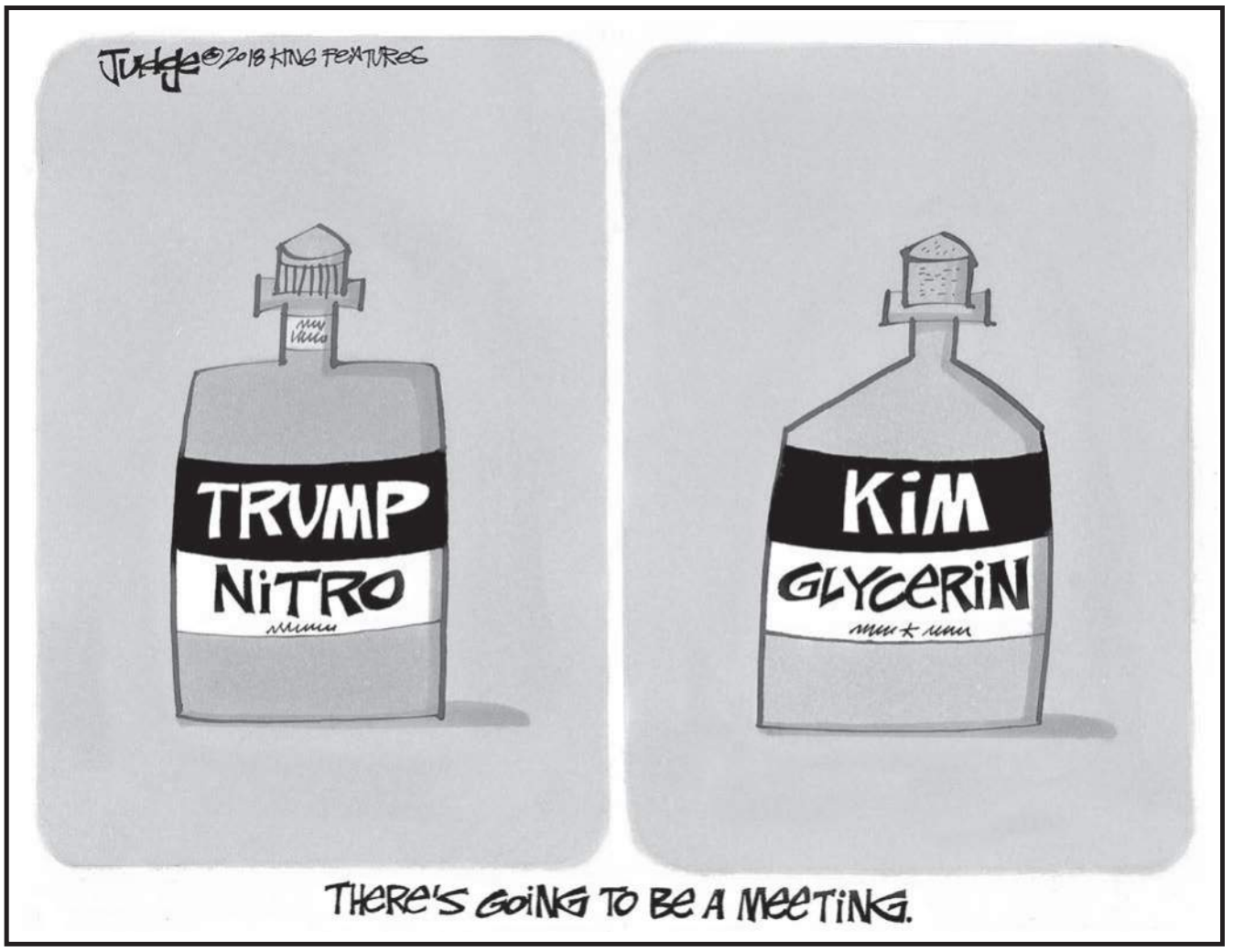
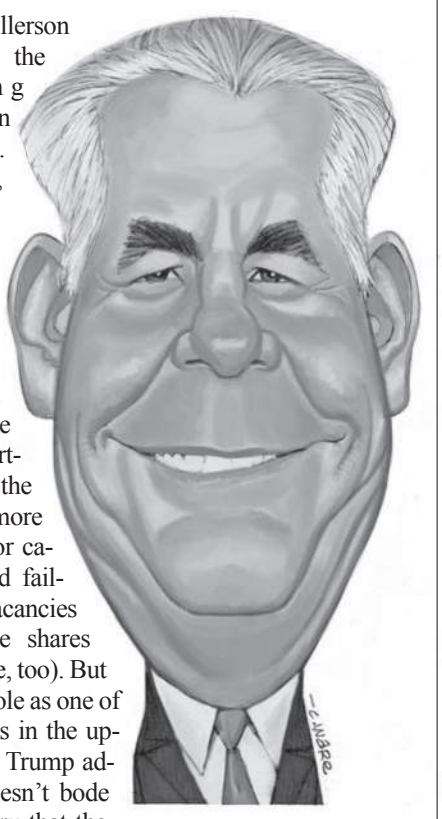


EDITORIAL

Mission impossible



Rex Tillerson was the wrong person to run the U.S. State Department, and he has done deep damage to the organization—most notably by proposing a controversial restructuring plan that would have shrunk the department, triggering the resignations of more than half the senior career diplomats and failing to fill top vacancies (the White House shares much of that blame, too). But given Tillerson's role as one of the few sane heads in the upper echelon of the Trump administration, it doesn't bode well for the country that the president canned him Tuesday morning in favor of Iran hawk and CIA director Mike Pompeo.

A president, obviously, deserves to have a secretary of state in whom he can feel confident and who tracks with his policy views. But it's hard to imagine anyone other than a sycophant succeeding as secretary of state to a president whose undisciplined thinking and penchant for unilateral action regularly undermines the foreign policy establishment, where international credibility is predicated upon reliability.

For all of his flaws, Tillerson has been a (slightly) moderating influence on a president who understands little of the world or the power of nuance in diplomacy. The frictions between Trump and Tillerson centered on the president's nuttier moves, such as his withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, his taunting tweets over North Korea and his ill-considered drive to undo the Iran nuclear deal. If talks with North Korea do occur, Tillerson likely deserves some of the credit, although the administration is already saying the move was Trump's alone. But Tillerson's defense of the Iran deal hasn't been enough to dissuade a president who still aims to undo it (as, apparently, does Pompeo).

So where do we go from here? Well, it will be up to the Senate to press Pompeo during his confirmation hearing on what guidance he would give the president on the Iran nuclear deal. Trump lately has suggested that he might reinstitute sanctions unilaterally if European nations don't agree to a new deal putting new limits on Iran's nuke program. More broadly, Trump seems bent on a Mideast strategy of siding with Israel and the Saudis against Iran and its clients.

See MISSION on Next Page

North Korea's dark history should frame any negotiations

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

President Trump's decision to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un elicited a wide range of responses from experts. But one thing you hear from everyone is that the president and administration need to prepare. The North Koreans may be technologically (and morally) backward and rhetorically juvenile, but they're also incredibly adept and disciplined at international politics. They have eaten our lunch for more than 30 years.

But before getting their facts and figures together about nuclear stockpiles and missile throw-weights, perhaps the administration should ponder a simple question that even the experts never seem very interested in.

What is North Korea?

It seems like a silly question. It's a country, of course. But what kind of country? The labels we hear most often—dictatorship, totalitarian, communist and "Stalinist"—have their merits descriptively or historically. But they're all inadequate.

Those are all relatively modern terms, and North Korea really isn't a modern country. Oh, sure, it's got some modern stuff—mostly its thriving nuclear program—but its social and political model is ancient.

For starters, Kim Jong Un is a monarch. According to government propaganda (or really, the state religion) his father, Kim Jong Il, was a creature of divine birth, born under a double rainbow atop the holy Baekdu Mountain. When he was born, a new star appeared and winter turned to spring.

Kim Jong Un is also a divine being, with a body so efficient that he has never needed to use a bathroom. According to official myth, Kim could drive at age 3. As a student at Kim Il Sung University (named after his grandfather), Kim reportedly wrote 1,500 books and six operas in three years. North Koreans are taught that their leader is revered worldwide as one of the greatest composers ever, and his operas are "better than any in the history of music." The first time he picked up a golf club, he recorded 11 holes-in-one and shot 38 under par.

It's easy to laugh at this stuff—his father claimed to have invented the hamburger—but it isn't a laughing matter, because the North Korean people believe it.

The entire country has been raised in a mystical cult. The North Koreans shed any allegiance to Marxism-Leninism decades ago, replacing it with Juche, a philosophy that elevates a "Great Leader" as a monarch over society. They took the Divine Right of Kings and replaced it with the Divine Right of the Kims.

North Korea mirrors ancient monarchies in another respect: It is a feudal society. Under a system called Songbun, North Korea divides the population into three major classes and roughly 50 sub-classes. Whatever class you're born into determines nearly everything important about your life, and each class is largely hereditary. If your grandfather was a "subversive" or "traitor," you're considered one too. If your grandfather fought with Kim Il Sung against the Japanese, you're probably a member of the ruling class. It's possible to improve your status, though extremely difficult and rare. It's easy to have your class downgraded, which means your children will also be downgraded.

The lowest caste of North Koreans are the slave-labor peasants, who are the first to be starved when the state resorts to man-made famine. As Nicholas Eberstadt recently wrote in Commentary magazine: "Life chances in North Korea—and no less important, death chances—turn on one's assigned class. ... (D)eath from starvation is almost entirely consigned to the state's designated enemies from the 'hostile classes.'"

North Korea is arguably the greatest implementation of the totalitarian regime imagined in Plato's "Republic." Based on a series of myths that Plato would call "noble lies," North Koreans subscribe to the belief that they are a superior, chosen race in much the same way Nazis subscribed to potted views about Aryans. This is interesting in its own right, but it also forms the backdrop for the regime's paranoia about the outside world.

Of course, the regime itself also operates as an extortion racket, feeding off not just its own people, but a global black market in arms, drugs, sex trafficking and counterfeiting.

The regime has been willing to starve its own people in the pursuit of nuclear weapons, which it sees as the only guarantor of its sovereignty and its eventual destiny of reuniting the peninsula. Negotiating with North Korea may be the right thing to do, but our negotiators should understand the monstrosity they're dealing with.

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'His laboratory was the universe'

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

AP

In this March 30, 2015 file photo, Professor Stephen Hawking poses for photographers upon arrival for the Interstellar Live show at the Royal Albert Hall in central London. Hawking, whose brilliant mind ranged across time and space though his body was paralyzed by disease, has died, a family spokesman said early Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Everyone knew of Stephen Hawking's cosmic brilliance, but few could comprehend it. Not even top-notch astronomers.

Hawking, who died at his home in Cambridge, England, on Wednesday at age 76, became the public face of science genius. He appeared on "Star Trek: The Next Generation," voiced himself in "The Simpsons" cartoon series and wrote the best seller "A Brief History of Time." He sold 9 million copies of that book, though many readers didn't finish it. It's been called "the least-read best-seller ever."

In some ways, Hawking was the inheritor of Albert Einstein's mantle of the genius-as-celebrity.

"His contribution is to engage the public in a way that maybe hasn't happened since Einstein," said prominent astronomer Wendy Freedman, director of the Carnegie Observatories. "He's become an icon for a mind that is beyond ordinary mortals. ... People don't exactly understand what he's saying, but they know he's brilliant. There's perhaps a human element of his struggle that makes people stop and pay attention."

With Einstein, most people are familiar with e=mc2, but they don't know what it means. With Hawking, his work was too complicated for most people, but they understood that what he was trying to figure out was basic, even primal.

"He was asking and trying to address the very biggest questions we were trying to ask: the birth of the universe, black holes, the direction of time," said University of Chicago cosmologist Michael Turner. "I think that caught people's attention."

And he did so in an impish way, showing humanity despite being confined to a wheelchair with ALS, the degenerative nerve disorder known in the U.S. as Lou Gehrig's disease. He flew in a zero-gravity plane. He made public bets with other scientists about the existence of black holes and radiation that emanates from them— losing both bets and buying a subscription to Penthouse for one scientist and a baseball encyclopedia for the other.

"The first thing that catches you is the debilitating disease and his wheelchair," Turner said. But then his mind and the "joy that he took in science" dominated. And while the public may not have understood what he said, they got his quest for big ideas, Turner said.

Andy Fabian, an astronomer at Hawking's University of Cambridge and president of the Royal Astronomical Society, said Hawking would start his layman's lectures on black holes with the joke: "I assume you all have read 'A Brief History of Time' and understood it." It always got a big laugh.

"You'd find the average astronomer such as myself doesn't even try to follow the more esoteric theories that (Hawking) pursued the last 20 years," Fabian said. "I've been to talks Hawking has given and cannot follow them myself."

Hawking, who was born 300 years to the day after Galileo died, was the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge. It was the same post that Isaac Newton held. Both physicists and astrophysicists claimed him as their own. And much of Hawking's work was in the field of cosmology, a deep-thinking branch of astronomy that tries to explain the totality of the universe.

Hawking's title "is not relevant here; what matters is what his brain did," said Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of New York's Hayden Planetarium. "We claim him as an astrophysicist because his laboratory was the universe."

And Hawking's black hole work in the mid-1970s made a crucial connection in physics. Until Hawking discovered radiation coming from black holes— named "Hawking radiation" after him— the two giant theories in physics, Einstein's general relativity and quantum mechanics, often conflicted. Hawking was the first to show they connected, which Turner and others described as breakthrough at the time.

The concept that stuff, radiation, comes out of black holes may have upset science fiction authors, but it inspired young scientists such as Tyson, who described it as "spooky profound."

The idea behind this was also novel because it said "black holes aren't forever," Turner said.

Hawking also pioneered a "no hair" theory of black holes that they were simple, with just spin, mass and charge and nothing else.

Both of those concepts are cornerstones of current black hole theory.

Hawking's other work went beyond black holes into the more cosmic, the origins of the universe. Initially he theorized about the "singularity" of the baby universe in thick but elegant mathematical equations comparing early time to wave functions. Later, his own work contradicted some of that and he was instrumental to theories about inflationary cosmology, where the universe's beginning is more of a half ball. That theory got its kick-start at a conference Hawking hosted in 1982 with a dinner party and croquet match, Turner said.

The high-concept theory-making didn't quite match the personality behind it. Colleagues often mention his off-the-wall humor, his big grin, his stubbornness.

And even the public picked up on his cheeky attitude instantly, Turner and Freedman said.

"He added a human face to science," Turner said. "It goes well beyond the wheelchair."

The bigger story was how the public became fascinated with this small man, stuck in a wheelchair with a worsening disease, and an intellect that few could fathom. They related to the man, Stephen Hawking, and his story, Freedman said.

The insight he gave on the mysteries of the cosmos was just a bonus.

MISSION

From Page 10

Will Secretary of State Pompeo accelerate that policy? Is that the right policy? And how does Pompeo view possible direct talks with North Korea? How can the U.S. hope to persuade Kim Jong Un to denuclearize if it's simultaneously backing away from its nuclear deal with Iran?

Pompeo also has defended the Intelligence Community's appraisal of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, a conclusion that Trump has derided. (Trump's self-serving view of reality was reinforced Monday by a partisan and premature draft report from House Intelligence Committee Republicans, which concluded that there was no effort by Russia to aid Trump in 2016 and no collusion with the Trump campaign.) As the Mueller investigation continues, does that difference of opinion make Pompeo's eventual dismissal inevitable? Stay tuned.

The reality is that no appointees serve this master well unless they are willing to tack with his inconsistencies. One of the president's more notable comments Tuesday was his observation that "we're getting very close to having the cabinet and other things that I want." That foreshadows more dismissals and disarray, but 15 months after the inauguration the president—who appointed the numerous top level officials he has sacked or who have quit—is talking as though he's just finishing up the transition work. That's remarkably inept.

Moving Pompeo to Foggy Bottom opens the top position at the CIA, and Trump said he will appoint Gina Haspel, whose long career at the agency includes many years of undercover work, a key role in the "extreme rendition" program and as an overseer of a "black site" in Thailand where terrorism suspects were tortured. While the appointment of the first female head of the spy agency is laudable, senators must drill deeply into her views of that dark past, and whether she has repudiated those reprehensible practices or would resurrect them under a president who has admired waterboarding as an interrogation technique.

Ultimately, we fear that the removal of Tillerson and the related deck-shuffling will do little to settle the most unsettled administration in memory. Trump entered the presidency uniquely unprepared for the job, and he has proven to be a slow—or even truculently resistant—learner of the traits, perspectives, and characteristics it takes to lead the nation and to set the moral and diplomatic tone for much of the rest of the world.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

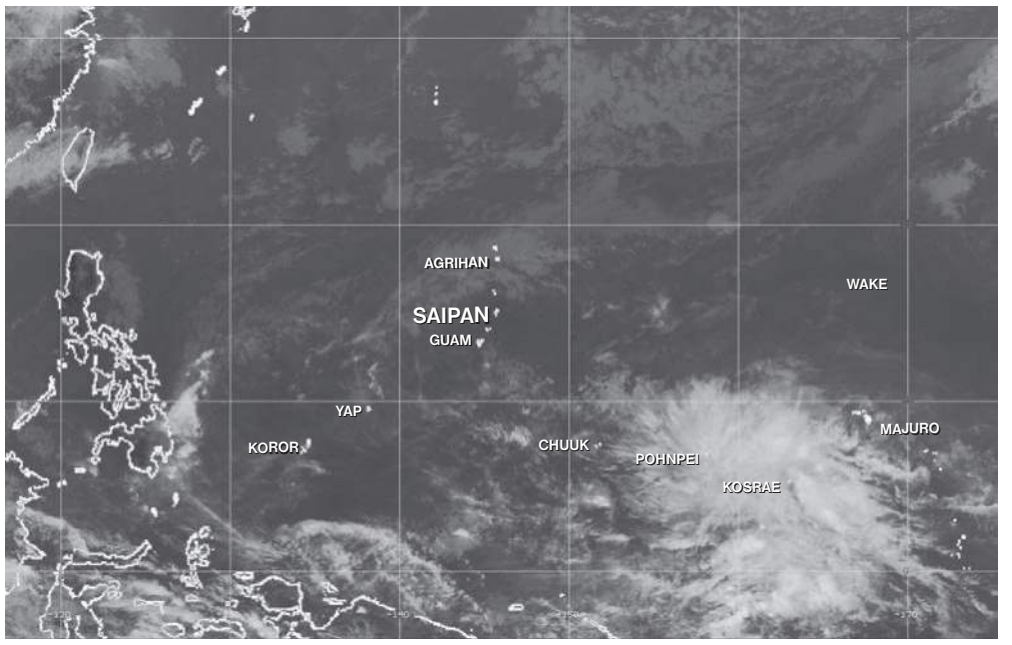
FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲88° ▼76°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:20 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Have scaled back showers for the Marianas today and tonight, as the shear line`s retreat has brought decreased showers to Tinian and Saipan. Have kept mostly cloudy for the two northern islands through Thursday, but showers will be isolated rather than scattered. For Guam and Rota, only isolated light showers are expected today, as moisture reaches a minimum above 5000 ft. The rest of the forecast is unchanged, as moderate to fresh trades are expected through Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Majuro	Rain	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	73° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	48° / 27°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 66°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 71°
London	Showers	52° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	60° / 49°
Manila	Sunny	93° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 64°
Miami	Sunny	72° / 60°
New York	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°
Osaka	Rain	61° / 41°
Paris	Thunderstorm	52° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	46° / 37°
Rome	Showers	57° / 52°
Salem	Sunny	66° / 43°
San Francisco	Rain	53° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	48° / 27°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 41°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	53° / 30°

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:31 AM	LOW TIDE	0.04
7:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79
1:01 PM	LOW TIDE	0.90
6:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.78

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:43 am	4:33 pm	-
Friday	5:25 am	5:24 pm	-
Saturday	6:07 am	6:15 pm	-
Sunday	6:49 am	7:07 pm	-
Monday	7:30 am	7:59 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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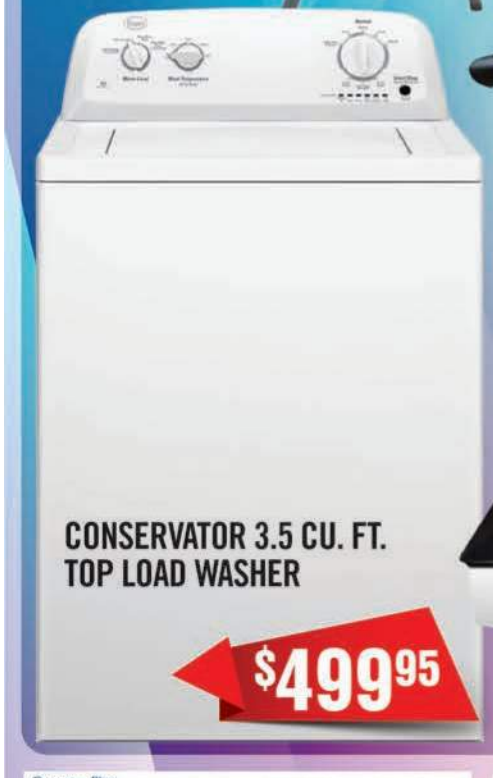

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

NMC-CREES to host composting seminar

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Learn how to make your own compost.

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service will be hosting a composting seminar to encourage homeowners to make their own compost with materials readily available at home.

Composting is a process of mixing together waste and decaying vegetables until it turns into a dark, nutrition-rich, and productive soil. Gardeners typically use compost to feed vegetation and to aid vegetation growth.

According NMC-CREES agriculture extension agent Solly Takai-Nakamura, the NMC-CREES workshop will introduce composting to the public. It will be held this Saturday, March 17, from 9am to 11am, is free of admission, and open to the public.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Solly Takai-Nakamura of Northern Marianas College CREES demonstrates what can and cannot be included in a compost pile yesterday at the NMC CREES agricultural farm in As Perdido.

"The workshop will touch on the basics of composting like what goes into a compost bin, what goes in a compost pile, what not to put in a compost pile, how to troubleshoot your compost bin, and so on," she said.

Takai-Nakamura said that having a compost bin is beneficial to homeowners because it helps get rid of table scraps in a way that is helpful to the environment.

"It's a way to just recycle household waste rather than burning it or dumping it in a landfill," she said.

Takai-Nakamura is urging the community to come out to NMC this Saturday to take part in the workshop and learn more about composting and its benefits.

A compost pile usually consists of basic, everyday household materials that are typically thrown away. With composting, materials such as egg shells, newspapers, tea bags, coffee grounds, and more can be incorporated into nutrients that are safe for the environment and can benefit

School garden teaches not just about farming

The idea of having a school garden program is nothing new for Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja. The program is a popular way to promote hands-on learning, sustainability, healthy eating, and camaraderie.

The school garden program started two years ago with the assistance of Solly Takai-Nakamura of the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service.

Takai-Nakamura spearheaded the School Garden Workday pilot project. Its mission is to help ESFDB create, sustain, and use on-site gardens by providing resources, professional consultation, and educational programming.

Now, with the assistance of both the NMC-CREES headed by Davi Bowen and the Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Specialty Crop Block Grant Program under Gus Maratita, they play an important role in making the school garden program flourish.

The block grant program teaches students how to grow their own food, prepares future farmers at an early age, tutors students on agricultural techniques, introduces the concept of integrated pest management, viability, and food security.

"We envision a future in which school garden education helps children become healthy youths who eat their fruits and vegetables, know the basics of growing food, and contribute to a thriving Luta community," school administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig said.

"We see that many our students' minds come alive in the garden in a way they don't in the classroom. The environment itself is transforming. There's something about being outside in a natural setting that seems to stimulate the senses," Atalig added.

Atalig added that the students have an opportunity to engage in agricultural practices on a small scale, learning about the responsibilities and impacts of land cultivation. They may be able to explore the interactions among the living and nonliving players that sustain life. By doing so, they develop a greater understanding of the natural world.

The partnerships between ESFDB, NMC-CREES, Rota DLNR, and the community play an important role for a school garden program to succeed.

"During the beginning of the school year, the student's started with soil base growing. Their plant beds are neither luxurious nor insignificant. To young, formative minds, these green spaces represent an introduction to farming," said school garden coordinator Edward C. Maratita Jr.

"Thanks to former Rota mayor Melchor A. Mendiola who provided eggplants, okras, green onions, spinach, bell pepper, and cherry tomato seeds and seedlings to start off," said Maratita, "the students are seeing the fruits of their labor growing before their eyes."

"And school garden teaches not just about farming with the introduction of the hydroponic system, the students are learning another way of farming. …It is another fresh approach to growing food. Hydroponic educates about all things hydroponic (water) and soilless growing and the many benefits and advantages of hydroponic growing over soil-based growing.

"[It] is often emphasized that hydroponic yields produce faster and in greater quantities. There are several reasons why hydroponic plants grow faster but many of these reasons are largely dependent on the type of hydroponic system being used, and of course the care that's being provided by the farmer," said Maratita.

"Being part of our school gardening was rewarding because we are being educated on the importance of growing our food and various ways in gardening. At the same time, we are getting good grades for our involvement," said student body council president and 8th grade student Auston Guiawan. ***(ESFDB)***

'77 pct. of NMTI students get employed'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Since 2014, 77 percent of Northern Marianas Trades Institute students have been able to find jobs, according to Ross Manglona, NMTI's Continuing Education & Apprenticeship director.

Speaking at last March 7's Chamber of Commerce membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Manglona said that out of the school's 223 students since 2014, a total of 172 have now been employed.

"How do we measure our success? It's how many of our students get employed. Out of 223 students, 172 have been placed. That's a 77-percent success rate among graduates," he said.

That 77 percent could've been higher if some of the students who get hired actually graduate from NMTI.

"…it is skewed a bit because some of them didn't finish and now work as security guards and groundskeepers," Manglona said.

He said the pending expiration of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program has accelerated the need for institutions like NMTI to train more locals and U.S.-eligible workers to enter the workforce.

"Why is [the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program] entertaining us now? It's because push has come to shove. We're in a dire situation and we need everybody's help. We need the entire community's help. We need the Latte Training Academy to do its thing. We need NMTI and we need [the Northern Marianas College]. It's a concerted effort and we need everybody on this," said Manglona.

NMTI data show that 68 percent of 1,076 jobs in the culinary field are currently occupied by CW workers, 55 percent of 870 jobs in the hotel and restaurant field are filled by CW workers, 65 percent of 463 maintenance and repair jobs are held by CW workers, 95 percent of 437 carpenters and woodworkers are CW workers, 94 percent of 328 cement masons and concrete finishers are CW workers, 73 percent of 240 auto technician jobs are held by CW workers, 77 percent of 240 electricians and power generation jobs are CW workers, 95 percent of 112 welders, cutters, etc. jobs are held by CWs, 84 percent of 103 HVAC jobs are held by CWs, and 63 percent of 100 plumbers are CW workers.

With the CW program's window nearly closing, Manglona said that, more than ever, NMTI graduates are in high demand in the CNMI.

"A lot of our students that finished our courses are now going in a bidding war. This community has raised the wages of our students who finished our culinary program, for example," he said.

SHEFA director Raymond Muna agrees and said the program supports NMTI and other organizations developing the local workforce because of the pending expiration of the CW program.

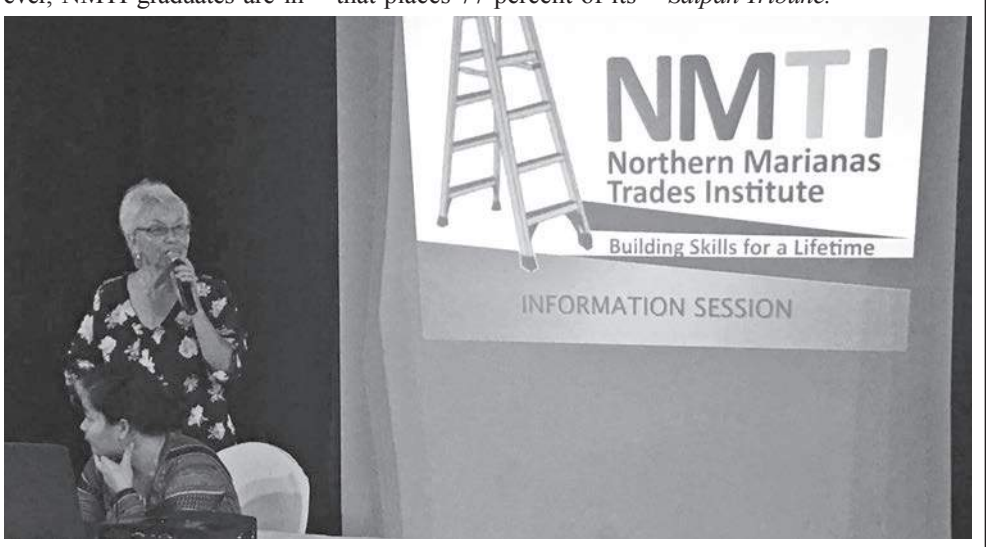
"We don't know the future of the CNMI's access to foreign workers," he said.

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh applauded NMTI's recent success and said it's a model that should be emulated by other skills training and trades institutions on island.

"Now that students from NMTI are eligible for these [SHEFA] funds, I would like to see more go to a more successful program that places 77 percent of its graduates [into jobs]," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Chamber president Velma Palacios said NMTI's resurrection from just having 12-15 students in 2014 to now having close to 600 students is nothing short of phenomenal.

"This is a very positive and promising number. I hope it continues to increase to 100 percent job placement for all NMTI graduates in their field of study. NMTI should continue to stay on course offering the vocational classes, which are needed by the business community. The Chamber encourages its members to hire U.S.-eligible workers. Most of our members work with NMTI and Latte Training Academy to help with their workforce needs. The Chamber will continue to work with these training organizations as we have to build our local workforce capacity to sustain our economy," she said in an email to *Saipan Tribune.*



MARK RABHAGO
Northern Marianas Trades Institute CEO Agnes McPhetres speaks during last March 7's Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Business

Outdoors stores quietly continue selling assault-style weapons

DUNDEE, Mich. (AP)—Some big retailers have curbed sales of assault weapons after last month's school shooting in Florida. But others are sticking to their guns.

Several outdoor chains, including Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Gander Outdoors and Academy Sports, continue to sell assault-style rifles online and in stores as part of their mix of hunting equipment. The decision is in stark contrast to Dick's Sporting Goods, which recently banned sales of assault rifles, and Walmart, which stopped carrying assault rifles in 2015 but says it will no longer sell guns or ammunition to anyone under 21.

Outdoor stores are trying to stay under the radar in this politically charged climate. Bass Pro Sports—which owns Cabela's—and the firms that own Gander Outdoors and Academy Sports didn't respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. But the stores have clearly made the calculation that they could lose more than they might gain by taking a stand against assault-style weapons.

"They're not interested in being cultural warriors and they're probably trying to wait it out," says Raphael Thomadsen, an associate professor of marketing at the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis. "Not everyone wants to be at the center of this thing."

Outdoor stores are in a tough position. Hunters account for a large part of their bottom lines and any steps to curb gun sales could alienate loyal customers like Sherry Lindamood, who was shopping with her toddler granddaughter last week at a Cabela's in Dundee, Michigan, a rural community about an hour southwest of Detroit.

"I don't think our rights should be impeached because of the wrongdoings of others," said Lindamood, who owns a handgun. Lindamood said she doesn't like assault rifles, but thinks Cabela's has a right to sell them.

A casual look around Cabela's revealed the strength of the store's gun business. There weren't many people browsing the clothing racks or the camping equipment in the 225,000-square-foot store, which has its own indoor fish pond and dozens of taxidermic animals in a multi-story display. But in the first-floor gun department, a sign behind the counter showed 13 people waiting to be helped. The department even has its own check-out area.

Terry Hiske, a former environmental official for the state, was shopping for a new fish finder at the store. He said it doesn't bother him that Cabela's sells assault weapons, because he sees a limited use for them. Hiske himself owns a gun and occasionally hunts deer, but he doesn't own an assault weapon.

"Unfortunately it's usually the idiots who are buying them, who like the biggest toy possible," he said.

Most gun buyers make their purchases at independent shops, not big retailers, according to the National Shooting Sports Federation, an advocacy group. In 2016, big box stores like Bass Pro Shops or Dick's sold around 23 percent of traditional hunting rifles and 12 percent of assault-style rifles, which are dubbed "modern sporting rifles" in the industry.

But for outdoor retailers, that 23 percent is still very big business. Bass Pro Shops, which operates around 185 Bass Pro and Cabela's stores, is a private company and doesn't publicly release its financial results. But in 2016, before the companies merged, Cabela's said hunting equipment made up 48 percent of its merchandise revenue, or $1.7 billion.

Before it was taken private in 2010, Gander Mountain—now Gander Outdoors—said hunting equipment made up 43 percent of its sales.

By contrast, the vast majority of Dick's business is selling things like golf clubs and apparel. Joseph Feldman, a senior managing director at the Telsey Advisory Group, estimated that guns and ammunition account for just 8 percent of the company's sales, or around $633 million in its most recent fiscal year. Walmart doesn't break out sales from guns, but more than half of its revenue comes from groceries.

"It's a lot easier to take a moral stand when it's likely to cost you 1 percent of your sales than when it could cost you 10 percent of your sales," said Erik Gordon, a professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Gordon says outdoor stores don't just risk gun sales, but also sales of accessories like camouflage jackets, hunting blinds and gun safes.

Dog dies after airline worker has it placed in overhead bin

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

A dog died on a United Airlines plane after a flight attendant ordered its owner to put the animal in the plane's overhead bin.

United said Tuesday that it took full responsibility for the incident on the Monday night flight from Houston to New York.

In a statement, United called it "a tragic accident that should never have occurred, as pets should never be placed in the overhead bin."

The dog was in a small pet carrier designed to fit under an airline seat.

Passengers reported that they heard barking during the flight and didn't know that the dog had died until the plane landed at LaGuardia Airport.

Passenger Maggie Gremminger posted a photo on Twitter of the dog's owner and children after the flight. "I want to help this woman and her daughter. They lost their dog because of an @united flight attendant. My heart is broken," she wrote.

United spokesman Charles Hobart said the flight attendant told the dog's owner to put the pet carrier in the overhead bin because the bag was partly obstructing the aisle. It is unclear why the carrier was not placed under a seat, he said.

Hobart said United is investigating the incident and talking to the flight attendant, whom he declined to identify. He said the airline refunded the tickets purchased for the dog owner and her two children and the fee that they paid to bring a pet on board—typically $200.

The cause of the dog's death was not immediately known. The spokesman said Chicago-based United offered to pay for a necropsy.

Last year, 18 animals died while being transported on United—there were six cases on all other U.S. carriers combined, according to the Department of Transportation.

United has suffered a string of incidents that generated bad publicity in the last two years, including the violent removal of a passenger from a United Express plane to make room for a crew member, and the death of a giant rabbit—its Iowa owners sued the airline, which they said cremated the animal to destroy evidence about the cause of death.

Nation

Trump axes Tillerson

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump unceremoniously dumped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday—via Twitter—and picked CIA Director Mike Pompeo to shift from America's spy chief to its top diplomat. The abrupt announcement ended the turbulent tenure of the man who reportedly called the president a "moron" but wanted to stay, and deepened the disarray in the Trump administration.

AP

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson steps away from the podium after speaking at the State Department in Washington, Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

The plans to oust Tillerson had been drawn up months ago, but the timing caught even senior White House officials unawares. The firing was just the latest in an exodus of administration officials, including those in Trump's inner circle, with the president already setting records for staff turnover and several other Cabinet secretaries facing ethics investigations.

However, Trump emphatically rejected talk of chaos in his year-old administration as he nears a pivotal moment on the international stage with his planned meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. He declared Tuesday, "I'm really at a point where we're getting very close to having the Cabinet and other things that I want."

He said he was nominating the CIA's deputy director, Gina Haspel, to take over for Pompeo at the intelligence agency. If confirmed, Haspel would be the CIA's first female director

» Names CIA's Pompeo chief US diplomat

As for Tillerson, the former Exxon Mobil CEO whom Trump picked as his administration's top Cabinet official, the president said simply, "we disagreed on things."

No doubt that was true, one prime example being the agreement to restrict Iran's nuclear efforts. Trump's change puts Pompeo, an ardent foe of the Iran nuclear deal, in charge of U.S. diplomacy as the president decides whether to withdraw the U.S. from the agreement. Tillerson has pushed Trump to remain and had been pursuing a delicate strategy with European allies and others to try to improve or augment the Obama-era deal to Trump's liking.

"We were not really thinking the same," said Trump.

Public policy aside, in the view of current and former White House officials, Tillerson's "moron" comment to senior administration officials last summer — and the subsequent revelation in the press — permanently eroded trust between the two men and it was only a matter of time before Tillerson would be pushed out.

Smattering of peaceful protests greet Trump at border

SAN DIEGO (AP)—President Donald Trump's motorcade Tuesday zipped past demonstrators who both jeered and cheered him and his plans for a "big beautiful border wall" after he inspected prototypes.

The president's first visit to the California border amid a contentious battle with state officials over his immigration policies was peaceful. Hundreds of people participated in scattered rallies on both sides of the border dividing San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico.

Law enforcement was out in force, and the area where Trump visited the eight prototypes was heavily cordoned off.

Rows of police kept apart supporters and opponents of the Trump administration along the avenue where his motorcade drove down. Each side booed, cheered and waved both Mexican and American flags as the president's convoy sped past them. Among the crowd, a man wearing a "Make America Great Again" cap debated policies with a woman holding a "No human is illegal" sign.

About 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of the prototypes, protesters chanted, "No ban! No wall!" at the nation's busiest border crossing, San Ysidro. Tens of thousands of people enter the U.S. daily from Tijuana, Mexico, many on their way to work or school in San Diego. Drivers honked as a show of support.

Jose Gonzalez, 21, stopped to snap a photo of the protesters holding signs, including one that read: "Wall off Putin!"

"I don't think it's really fair how he has the choice to separate us," said Gonzalez, a dual citizen who lives in Tijuana and crosses daily to work at a San Diego ramen restaurant.

Army veteran Mark Prieto, 48, shook his head as he walked by the protest.

"People are so narrow-minded," said the firefighter, who voted for Trump. "Finally we have someone who is putting America first."

Trump examined eight 30-foot-tall (9-meter-tall) prototypes built last year along the border in a bid to fulfill his signature campaign promise.

U.S. authorities moved semi-trailers between the prototypes and the Mexican border, offering a layer of protection. A man, woman and two children were seen climbing the border fence at the site Monday and were immediately detained.

Trump spoke with immigration enforcement officials and with Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar before heading to a fundraiser in Beverly Hills, where a crowd of demonstrators for and against the president faced off in a park. A group of pro-immigration protesters chanted "Say it now, say it clear, immigrants are welcome here."

Asia

Myanmar says UN findings on human rights lack credibility

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's government on Tuesday rejected two reports presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council that concluded it committed extreme human rights violations, probably amounting to crimes under international law, in its repression of several minority groups.

Government spokesman Zaw Htay said the reports presented Monday by the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar and U.N. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Yanghee Lee lacked credibility.

The report of the Fact-Finding Mission, chaired by former Indonesian Attorney-General Marzuki Darusman, was based on hundreds of accounts by victims and witnesses of reported human rights violations, as well as satellite imagery, photographs and video footage.

The mission's members were barred by Myanmar's government from entering the country, so its researchers interviewed refugees and others in Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand.

Zaw Htay said Buddhist-majority Myanmar had barred the Fact-Finding Mission because it rejected its legitimacy. He questioned the reliability of its research and cast doubts on the credibility of the refugees' stories.

"We are not denying rights violations but we are asking for strong, fact-based, and trustworthy evidence on the allegations they are making," Zaw Htay told The Associated Press by telephone.

He also said Myanmar would no longer cooperate with Lee because she "has made biased, one-sided and unfair accusations against Myanmar."

Lee told the Human Rights Council that violent sweeps by the Myanmar army in Rakhine state that prompted about 700,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh "bear the hallmarks of genocide."

She said accountability for the abuses in Rakhine should be "the focus of the international community's efforts to bring long-lasting peace, stability and democratization to Myanmar."

"This must be aimed at the individuals who gave the orders and carried out violations against individuals and entire ethnic and religious groups," she said. "The government leadership who did nothing to intervene, stop, or condemn these acts must also be held accountable."

The situations in Kachin and Shan states, which involve actual combat between government soldiers and ethnic rebel groups seeking greater autonomy, have received much less international attention than the plight of the Rohingya.

The Fact-Finding Mission said in an interim report presented in Geneva that "patterns of human rights abuse across the country are linked," with events in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states all "products of a longstanding, systemic pattern of human rights violation and abuse in Myanmar."

"The long-standing conflicts in Kachin and Shan states have recently intensified, leading to more reports of serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in these areas by the security forces," it said.

Nepal plane crash came after confused pilot-airport chatter

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—"I say again, turn!" the air traffic controller called over the radio, his voice rising, as the flight from Bangladesh swerved low over the runway at Kathmandu's small airport.

Seconds later, the plane crashed into a field beside the runway, erupting in flames and leaving 49 of the 71 people on board dead.

That moment Monday appeared to result from minutes of confused chatter between the control tower and the pilot of the US-Bangla passenger plane, as they discussed which direction the pilot should use to land on the airport's single runway.

A separate radio conversation between the tower and at least one Nepali pilot reflected the sense of miscommunication.

"They appear to be extremely disoriented," a man said in Nepali, watching as Flight BS211 made its approach, though it was not clear if the voice belonged to a pilot or the tower. "Looks like they are really confused," said another man.

In the recording, posted by air traffic monitoring website liveatc.net, the pilot and the tower shifted back and forth about whether the pilot should approach the runway from the north or the south.

Just before landing, the pilot asked, "Are we cleared to land?"

Moments later, the controller came back on the air, his voice clearly anxious, and told the pilot, "I say again, turn!" Seconds after that, the controller ordered firetrucks onto the runway.

The plane, which was heading from Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, to Kathmandu, was carrying 67 passengers and four crew members.

Kathmandu officials and the airline laid the blame for the accident on each other.

The airport's general manager told reporters Monday that the pilot did not follow the control tower's instructions and approached the runway from the wrong direction.

"The airplane was not properly aligned with the runway. The tower repeatedly asked if the pilot was OK and the reply was 'Yes,'" said the general manager, Raj Kumar Chetri.

But Imran Asif, CEO of US-Bangla Airlines, told reporters in Dhaka that "we cannot claim this definitely at the moment, but we are suspecting that the Kathmandu air traffic control tower might have misled our pilots to land on the wrong runway."

After hearing the recording between the tower and the pilots, "we assumed that there was no negligence by our pilots," he said.

He said the pilot, Capt. Abid Sultan, was a former air force officer and had flown the Bombardier Q400 series aircraft for more than 1,700 hours and was also a flying instructor with the airline. While officials in Bangladesh said the pilot had died from his injuries Tuesday, raising the death toll to 50 people, Nepal police spokesman Manoj Neupane later said that was wrong, and the death toll remained at 49.

The injured were being treated in various hospitals in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital.

World

UK counterterror police look into Russian's London death

LONDON (AP)—British counterterrorism police on Tuesday took charge of the investigation into the death in London of a Russian businessman because he was connected to a prominent Kremlin foe.

The death of Nikolai Glushkov, confirmed by his lawyer in Russia, came a week after former spy Sergei Skripal was left critically ill from nerve agent poisoning in the city of Salisbury.

Police said there was no evidence to suggest a link to the March 4 poisoning of Skripal and his daughter Yulia.

AP

Police activity at a residential address in southwest London, Tuesday March 13, 2018, after the unexplained death of a Russian businessman associated with a prominent critic of the Kremlin.

Attorney Andrei Borovkov told Russian media outlets that Glushkov had died, but said he was unaware of the time and circumstances. Reports in British and Russian media said Glushkov, who was in his late 60s, was found dead at his home in southwest London.

London's Metropolitan Police force said it was investigating the unexplained death of a man found at a house in the New Malden area late Monday. It didn't release his name, saying formal identification had yet to take place.

Police said counterterrorism detectives are leading the investigation "as a precaution because of associations that the man is believed to have had."

Glushkov was an associate of Boris Berezovsky, a Russian oligarch and Kremlin critic who died in London in 2013. An inquest failed to determine whether he had killed himself or died from foul play.

Glushkov told The Guardian newspaper in 2013 he didn't believe Berezovsky's death was suicide.

"I'm definite Boris was killed," he said.

In light of the attack on Skripal, the British government said police will look again at the deaths of more than a dozen Russians, including Berezovsky.

Glushkov had worked for various Berezovsky enterprises including the car factory AvtoVAZ and flagship Russian airline Aeroflot.

He was arrested in 1999 and put on trial for embezzling $7 million from Aeroflot. In 2004, he was sentenced to three years and three months in prison, but released because of time served before and during his trial.

Russian media reported that Glushkov was granted political asylum in Britain in 2010.

Al-Qaida in Syria losing ground in battles with insurgents

BEIRUT (AP)—For the first time since its meteoric rise in 2012 amid the chaos of war, al-Qaida's branch in Syria is in retreat, battling rival militant groups in the north and fighting for survival in a key foothold near the capital, Damascus.

Over the past three weeks, the extremist group has been driven from nearly all of the northern province of Aleppo, losing dozens of fighters in battles there and in nearby Idlib province.

The fighting poses a major challenge to the militant group, already beset by infighting and a string of assassinations that have taken out some of its top leaders. Unlike previous battles in which al-Qaida-linked fighters were able to quickly crush their opponents, the fighting has been particularly fierce, with the militants losing dozens of villages.

The al-Qaida-linked coalition known as the Levant Liberation Committee is still one of Syria's most powerful armed groups, with fighters numbering in the thousands.

While the U.S.-led coalition and Russian-backed Syrian troops have focused on driving the Islamic State group from the country's east, the al-Qaida-linked group has consolidated its control over Idlib, where it remains the strongest force despite its recent losses there.

After the defeat of IS, al-Qaida is seen as the main jihadi group that rejects any peace talks to try to end Syria's seven-year conflict. Its presence in northern Syria and in the Damascus suburbs of eastern Ghouta has provided a pretext for President Bashar Assad and his Russian backers to wage war against opposition-held territory, since various de-escalation and cease-fire agreements have excluded al-Qaida.

Several hundred al-Qaida fighters holed up in eastern Ghouta have become a burden to the armed opposition battling government forces there, which has pressed the extremists to leave the area for their stronghold in Idlib in order to avoid the current crushing offensive.

The group's presence has also raised concern in nations from Turkey to the United States that fear the global network founded by Osama bin Laden could use its presence in northern Syria to launch terrorist attacks around the world.

The recent fighting appears to have been triggered by last month's assassination of a senior al-Qaida official, Abu Ayman al-Masri, who was riding in a car with his wife when members of a rival militant group, Nour el-Din el-Zinki, fired on their vehicle, killing al-Masri and wounding his wife.

The killing led to battles in Aleppo and Idlib that have raged for the past three weeks.

The shooting was preceded by the merger of Nour el-Din el-Zinki and the ultra-conservative Ahrar al-Sham, both former al-Qaida allies now turned enemies.

Amid the recent battles, the new coalition, the Syria Liberation Front, has forced the al-Qaida fighters to retreat west to Idlib.

Environment

Study on Arctic warmth and winter weather across US draws heated debate

By AMINA KHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

AP
A man takes a selfie in a March 7, 2018, snowstorm in Manhattan.

Those severe winter storms that have been plaguing the East Coast might be linked to a rapidly warming Arctic, according to a new study on Arctic temperatures and extreme weather in a dozen U.S. cities.

While the findings published in the journal Nature Communications build on earlier studies that have looked into this connection, they drew criticism from other researchers who questioned some aspects of the work.

"The basic findings are sound, but I would take issue with some of the interpretation in the study," Michael Mann, a climate scientist at Pennsylvania State University who was not involved in the study, said in an email.

The Arctic has been warming fast in recent decades, causing sea ice to shrink to record lows. This temperature rise comes as global warming, fueled by the greenhouse gases released by decades of human activity, shows little sign of slowing down.

At the same time, scientists have begun to wonder whether the flurry of winter storms in the last few years might somehow be related to Arctic warming. Some work had already suggested there was a connection, but lead author Judah Cohen, an MIT climatologist with Atmospheric and Environmental Research in Lexington, Mass., wanted to see whether there was a more quantifiable, consistent link.

Cohen and his colleagues compared three different sources of data: an index of Arctic temperatures, an index that combined Arctic temperatures and surface pressures, and the Accumulated Winter Season Severity Index. This index tracks extreme winter weather events by looking at such factors as maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall and snow depth.

For this study, the researchers looked at 12 areas either in or around these cities: Seattle; Helena, Mont.; Salt Lake City; Bismarck, N.D.; Duluth, Minn.; Des Moines, Iowa; Detroit; Chicago; Milton, Mass.; New York; Washington and Atlanta.

After comparing the three indices for these areas from the years 1950 to 2016, Cohen and his colleagues found a strong link between Arctic warmth and nasty winter weather, from record-breaking cold snaps to intense snowstorms. In fact, in the Eastern United States, extreme winter weather was two to four times more likely when Arctic temperatures were unusually high.

In the Western U.S., the trend was more mixed and sometimes even the opposite, reflecting somewhat milder winter weather in general.

For this paper, the scientists did not try to pin down exactly how and why this happens, and they stressed that correlation did not equal causation. Still, they did suggest that the Arctic warming could potentially contribute to rougher winter weather.

"These findings suggest that the continuation of rapid Arctic warming and melting contribute to more frequent episodes of severe winter across the (Northern Hemisphere's) mid-latitude continents," the authors wrote.

That suggestion of a cause-and-effect was one of the reasons the paper came under fire from other climate scientists.

Mann pointed out that increased snowfall in the Northeastern U.S. and mid-Atlantic partly reflect warmer ocean temperatures and stronger coastal storms, which can produce stronger nor'easters with larger snowfall totals — like many of the storms seen this season.

"This is an entirely separate mechanism from Arctic warming," Mann said. "This example points to the limitations in purely observationally based studies such as this one, and the importance of investigating dynamical mechanisms with physically based models. There isn't just one factor at work, but many."

Kevin Trenberth of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., said that many parts of the paper were "not new" and others were "not right."

"The link between the warm Arctic and cold in (the mid-latitudes) is an obvious one: the cold air has to go somewhere," Trenberth said in an email. "The question is where and what is the cause. This study reaffirms the relationship but not its cause. The Arctic likely plays a modest role in terms of feedbacks but it is unlikely it is a cause."

Something else might be responsible for both the Arctic warming and the extreme winter weather, he added.

The study comes as politicians have in recent years used winter weather to attempt to disprove the existence of climate change. Sen. James M. Inhofe, R-Okla., memorably brought a snowball into the Senate in February 2015 to suggest that climate change was not real. President Donald Trump has also suggested in the past that record-setting snowstorms and freezing temperatures contradict global warming.

But in an interview, Trenberth pointed out that the opposite is true. In the middle of winter, the temperature over the continent is usually too cold, and the air is too dry, for snow to form. But rising ocean temperatures (thanks to global warming) could inject just enough warm moisture to bring those frigid temperatures high enough (around 28 to 32 degrees Fahrenheit) for a lot of snow to fall.

"If you warm things up a bit with global warming, you actually create conditions ripe for bigger snowfalls," he said.

First Year Death Anniversary
In Loving Memory of
†John Peter Duenas Del Rosario
We, the family, would like to invite you to join us
in prayer as we commemorate the
1st Year Death Anniversary of our Beloved †John Peter.
Daily Mass will be offered at San Antonio Church
on the following days:
Saturday March 17 6:00 pm
Sunday March 18 9:00 am
Monday March 19 6:00 pm
Tuesday March 20 6:00 pm
Wednesday March 21 6:00 pm
Thursday March 22 6:00 pm
Friday March 23 6:00 pm
Saturday March 24 6:00 pm (Dinner will follow immediately after mass.)
Sunday March 25 9:00 am
On Saturday, March 24, 2018, mass will be offered
at 6:00 pm at San Antonio Church, followed by
dinner at the family's residence in San Antonio.
Your prayers and presence will be humbly appreciated!
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You
Rose, Darrah, Aidin, and Family

Life & Style

Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik confirm breakup in pair of tweets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik are confirming on social media that their romance is over.

The 22-year-old model and 25-year-old musician each posted on Twitter Tuesday about the end of their two-year relationship.

Hadid wrote that she is "forever grateful for the love, time and life lessons" she and Malik shared, adding that "there is really no way to put into words what two people experience together over a few years."

Malik said the two "had an incredibly meaningful, loving and fun relationship" and that he continues to respect and adore Hadid "as a woman and a friend."

Hadid is a supermodel who has been featured by Versace, Fendi, Balmain and other high-end brands. Malik is a singer and former member of the band One Direction.

CBS says work needed on before Stormy Daniels interview airs

NEW YORK (AP)—The head of CBS News said Tuesday that a "60 Minutes" interview with adult film star Stormy Daniels is on its way but that more journalistic work needs to be done on the story.

News President David Rhodes' statement at a conference in Israel Tuesday was the first time CBS publicly confirmed it had interviewed Daniels, who has alleged an extramarital affair with Donald Trump before he became president. Trump has denied this. Michael Avenatti, lawyer for the actress, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, last week tweeted a picture of himself, Clifford and CBS interviewer Anderson Cooper.

No air date has been set for the interview.

Rhodes, in remarks reported by Variety, said he could not imagine what the basis would be for any legal action by Trump's team to prevent the interview from airing. BuzzFeed had reported that Trump's lawyers were considering seeking an injunction to stop it.

"I haven't seen such an injunction, and I can't imagine what the basis for that would be," Rhodes said. "The encounter between Anderson Cooper and (Clifford) was accompanied also by conversations with attorneys, documents were provided, and so we have to run all that down before it runs."

Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, has not immediately returned messages for comment.

The actress has sought to invalidate a nondisclosure agreement under which she was paid $130,000 not to give details of her encounters with Trump. Clifford said Monday that she has offered to repay the money as long as she can speak openly about the situation.

Clifford filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles last week that sought to invalidate the agreement so she could "set the record straight."

The lawsuit claimed the "hush agreement" that was signed days before the 2016 presidential election is legally invalid because it was only signed by Clifford and Cohen and not by Trump

PICKLES BEFRIENDS MARIANAS-*CHAN*

Japan's Pickles the Frog is spotted visiting Saipan and Tinian in February 2018. The Japanese character recently befriended Marianas-*chan* as part of its world traveling excursions. Pickles the Frog was the No. 1-selling plush toy at many pop-up stores at the Tokyo Station Character Street Ichiban Plaza in 2016 and remains popular among young Japanese women and children today. MVA

World traveler Pickles the Frog is seen sporting a *mwar* (head lei) and a pendant with "Saipan Tinian Rota" after the Marianas Visitors Authority brought Marianas-*chan* and the Japanese character together in February 2018. The Marianas version of Pickles was also sold at Tokyo Station on Feb. 9-22, 2018, with nearly 40 media outlets in Japan reporting on the story. MVA

Customers at the Tokyo Station line up on Feb. 9, 2018, to purchase the Marianas version and other new products of popular toy Pickles the Frog. MVA

A tag of Marianas-*chan* and popular character Pickles the Frog was launched in Japan in February 2018.

Royal wedding fans gearing up to party

NEW YORK (AP)—In pajamas and old wedding gowns, with high tea or a bit of the early morning bubbly, royal watchers in the U.S. and around the globe are fascinator-ready to watch the nuptials of Prince Harry and his unprecedented fiancee: Meghan Markle.

He's the spare to the heir, soon to be booted to sixth in line for the throne, but Harry is forever the people's prince to many inside and outside the Commonwealth who once wondered whether the bad boy of Windsor would ever tie the knot.

She, of TV "Suits" fame, has whipped up some big fan buzz, including those thrilled by her mixed race heritage.

Their "woke" wedding (the Spice Girls are expected) is May 19 at midday, Windsor Castle time, or about 7 a.m. in the Eastern U.S. Viewing party plans are in the works, as are pricey hotel packages and bar meet ups. The frenzied have their own Facebook groups and some have cajoled less-enthused spouses to jet across the pond to watch the pomp in person from a spot on the carriage route.

Julie Brillhart, a hardcore royal enthusiast in Hurricane, West Virginia (population, 7,000, maybe), said she fired up her Harry and Meghan Facebook group to connect fans with parties back in November, "the minute I woke up in the morning and found out Meghan and Harry were engaged." The group now has nearly 5,000 members.

"We are in love with Meghan Markle," said Brillhart, a former career logistics specialist in the Army. "For every little black girl who has ever wanted her very own princess who is a well-known, modern princess, they now have one. Isn't that wonderful? She will always be our American princess."

The group's members share wedding updates and plans for gatherings, and they live in 91 countries on six of the seven continents.

Son throws a tantrum after wedding gift is cut in half

DEAR ABBY: I was working out of town in a position that paid a good salary. When my adult son proposed to his girlfriend, I told him I would try and give him $10,000 for the wedding. Well, things changed. I had to return home for good, and my salary was cut. When I told my son I wouldn't be able to give him $10,000, but could give him only $5,000 instead, he became very upset and said, "You promised that amount and we were counting on that money!"

I feel a gift is a gift, and they should be happy with whatever I can manage. After talking it over with several friends, they all agreed that he is behaving inappropriately. I am single and trying to retire in 10 years. Please help.

SALARY CUT IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SALARY CUT: Your son's reaction was immature. He should understand that sometimes circumstances can change. If you haven't already explained why you need to cut back on the sum you planned to give him, do it now. How he reacts to your explanation will tell you whether you want to give him even $5,000.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently took a job working for someone I knew. He was a neighbor and attended my church for several years, but we were never more than acquaintances.

After I began working there, I saw things going on with other girls in the office that were very inappropriate. Then I stumbled across a sexual online chat he was having with one of them. As I scrolled through the feed, it became apparent they're having an affair. It made me so uncomfortable I quit working there.

We still live in the same community. He has a beautiful, kind and very pregnant wife. Should I tell her? Should I tell anyone, or stay quiet and let him get away with it? It makes me sick, and I don't know what to do at this point.

UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE WEST

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Allow me to suggest that what you do is remain silent, at least for now. The kind and very pregnant wife does not need to be told that her husband is cheating with an employee at this juncture. After the baby is born, perhaps she should be told—if she doesn't know already—but NOT NOW.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Please help! How do I politely tell my partner—without hurting his feelings—that I don't like his cooking and I should be the one doing the cooking because I'm more "seasoned" in the kitchen than he is? I am usually the "chef" and he is the "second-in-command," which in the past has worked.

SEASONED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SEASONED: Here's how: Skip the part about not liking his cooking, which could be hurtful. Ease into it by telling him you consider cooking together to be a bonding experience. Then say how much you enjoy taking the lead when the two of you do it, how meaningful it is when he helps you, and how much you'd appreciate it if he would continue to let you be the chef.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

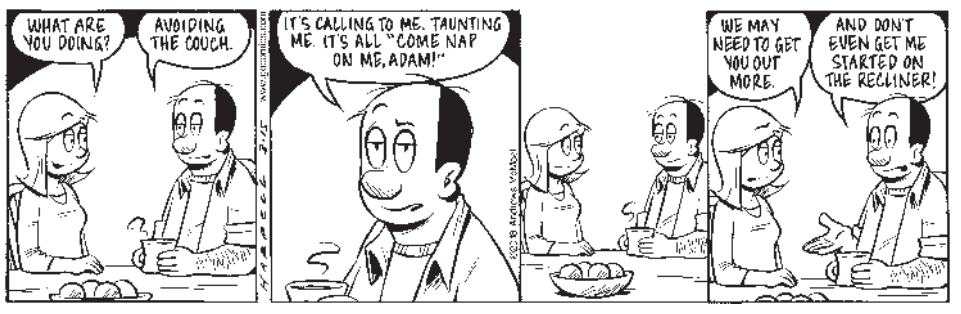
IF YOU WON'T TELL ME YOUR SECRET, I WON'T BE YOUR FRIEND ANY MORE.
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT. HOW'S THAT?
OK! SHOOT.
THE FLEA MARKET.
"THE FLEA MARKET"?!? WHAT KIND OF LOUSY HINT IS THAT?
DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR PARENTS GOT YOU?
I WAS... WHY? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
NO MORE HINTS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AVOIDING THE COUCH.
IT'S CALLING TO ME. TAUNTING ME. IT'S ALL "COME NAP ON ME, ADAM!"
WE MAY NEED TO GET YOU OUT MORE.
AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE RECLINER!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Harsh criticism
5 Center
8 Spider creations
12 Zhivago's love
13 Parisian pal
14 Oodles
15 "So be it"
16 Wall St. debut
17 Concept
18 "Pop Goes the —"
20 Piquant
22 Oklahoma city
23 Berlin's country (Abbr.)
24 Intend
27 Centennial State
32 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
33 Bedazzle
34 Lemon
35 So darned cute
38 Tackled weeds
39 Corral
40 Caviar base
42 Shrewd
45 Van Gogh painting
49 Smooth-talking
50 Top card
52 Dazzle
53 Roof overhang
54 Train lines (Abbr.)
55 Actress Hatcher
56 British gun
57 Soup cooker
58 Dalmatian feature

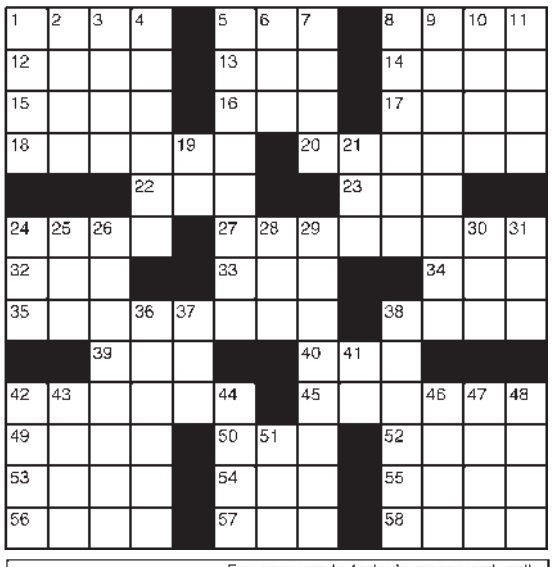
DOWN

1 Imperfection
2 Hobbling
3 Region
4 Dorothy, for one
5 Yell "Taxi!"
6 Ref
7 Life stories
8 Legal release
9 Place of great wealth
10 Afrikaner
11 Remain
19 Harris or Asner
21 In the past
24 Soccer's Hamm
25 Finale
26 Like some parents
28 Barn bird
29 Most skeptical
30 Payable
31 Quirky
36 Deli sandwich
37 Busy insect
38 Stickup jobs
41 Choice word?
42 Mellows
43 Venetian blind part
44 Lawman Wyatt
46 Dance move
47 Modern money
48 Tizzy
51 — -Magnon

Solution time: 24 mins.

H	A	I	L	■	Z	A	G	■	A	J	A	R
A	N	N	A	■	E	C	O	■	T	A	R	O
H	A	C	K	I	N	T	O	■	A	C	E	D
A	S	H	E	S	■	■	P	O	L	K	A	S
■	■	■	R	O	O	D	■	P	E	R	■	■
D	J	B	S	■	L	I	C	E	■	Y	U	M
■	N	A	■	M	A	C	O	N	■	A	S	E
P	E	C	■	E	Y	E	S	■	G	N	A	T
■	■	K	O	S	■	S	T	A	N	■	■	■
■	I	A	R	A	S	■	■	S	A	I	S	A
■	O	W	A	■	P	A	C	K	R	A	T	S
E	T	A	■	■	A	H	A	■	L	V	I	I
S	A	Y	S	■	M	I	I	■	Y	A	R	N

Yesterday's answer 3-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kellan Lutz, 33; will.i.am, 43; Eva Longoria, 43; Bret Michaels, 55.

Happy Birthday: Stop waiting for something to happen. If you want to get ahead, it's up to you to put your plans into action. Don't fear failure when it's regret that you should be cutting out of your life. Success will be preceded by multiple mistakes and plenty of hard work. Look ahead with enthusiasm and work hard to make your dreams come true. Your numbers are 5, 13, 21, 23, 28, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your financial, medical and legal issues a secret. Sharing too much information with others will put you in a vulnerable position. Finish whatever responsibilities you are handed quickly and efficiently. Take time to relax and rejuvenate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* What you offer will be well-received. Partnerships will help you get ahead. Set up meetings or offer your services to those in need of help. Establishing a healthy relationship with someone will be beneficial. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A situation that exposes your emotions will put you in a vulnerable position at work or when dealing with people who may take advantage of you. Be careful what information you share. Don't be too proud or gullible. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Your emotions and insight will help you figure out the best way to respond to someone who makes unreasonable demands. Fight back by offering positive alternatives. Lead the way, but don't do all the work yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Money matters will not be clear. Go over your expenses, assets and debts and see where you can cut corners to avoid loss and stress. Don't let your desire to be loved lead to ill-considered generosity. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An opportunity to work alongside someone you respect or enjoy spending time with will make it easier to get things done. Mixing business with pleasure will allow you to explore your options. Someone close to you will get upset easily. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't waste your time thinking about what you should do -- take action and make things happen. Listen to someone who has more experience than you and you'll find answers that will help you excel. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You have more leeway than you realize. Express your feelings and work alongside someone you love to make your surroundings, location and relationship convenient and comfortable. Wear the purple hat and enjoy being different. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Physical activity will make you feel alive. Try something new or set your sights on something you want to accomplish. Celebrate your success with someone you love. Personal and home improvements are featured. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let anyone limit what you can do with responsibilities that don't belong to you. Stay focused on what you do best and what best serves your interests. Don't rely on others -- do the work yourself. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotional problems will set in if you overreact or take things the wrong way. Think before you respond to any criticism that you feel is unfair. Give others the benefit of the doubt and be willing to compromise. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be forthright about what you want and don't stop until you at least have some idea how best to move forward. Use past experience to help you gain insight into the best way to enforce what you want to see unfold. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, inventive and persuasive. You are outgoing and popular.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	3		4		7	1	
8								2
4			6		7			8
		8				1		
3								6
		7				4		
2			5		8			4
7								1
	5	4		1		8	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	8	7	3	6	2	9	1	4
3	9	6	5	1	4	8	2	7
2	4	1	8	7	9	5	6	3
6	7	3	4	9	1	2	8	5
1	2	8	6	3	5	4	7	9
4	5	9	2	8	7	6	3	1
8	6	4	1	5	3	7	9	2
7	3	5	9	2	8	1	4	6
9	1	2	7	4	6	3	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RHAPSODY OF POETRY — Solution: 5 letters

E	N	A	E	W	D	W	W	R	I	T	I	N	G	S
S	N	O	F	M	A	I	O	P	A	S	S	I	O	N
P	T	U	I	F	O	R	V	E	R	S	E	F	H	O
N	R	N	M	T	E	T	R	I	R	D	S	O	I	I
O	A	E	E	E	A	C	I	I	N	N	U	R	S	T
I	P	D	P	M	R	R	T	O	O	E	M	M	T	A
T	T	S	E	O	I	A	I	I	N	R	S	A	O	N
A	U	E	P	T	S	T	T	M	O	A	S	L	R	A
Z	R	U	I	S	A	I	N	I	D	N	L	A	Y	R
I	O	L	C	C	S	I	T	E	O	A	T	C	E	R
L	U	A	O	O	D	I	Ⓛ	I	S	N	N	I	L	A
I	S	V	P	E	V	O	L	Ⓘ	O	A	E	R	D	T
V	N	M	E	L	T	T	O	B	Ⓕ	N	V	Y	E	I
I	O	D	R	A	M	A	T	I	C	Ⓔ	E	L	M	V
C	S	T	O	R	I	E	S	T	E	H	T	I	P	E

© 2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/15

Admiration, Affection, Bliss, Bottle, Civilization, Composition, Deeds, Detail, Divine, Dramatic, Emotional, Enumeration, Epic, Epithets, Event, Fancy, Formal, History, Invocation, Life, Love, Lyrical, Medley, Muse, Narrative, Nations, Passion, Preposition, Rapturous, Sentiments, Stories, Values, Verse, Warriors, Writings

Yesterday's Answer: Jaguar

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Maintenance/Cleaner
A high school graduate with a minimum of five (5) years work experience in general maintenance. Must be well-rounded in performing various maintenance routines such monitoring and upkeep of water systems, premise maintenance for cleanliness and efficiency, and proper removal and disposal of debris, waste, and/or hazardous materials. Must be able to lift. Must know how to operate power tools and cleaning equipment. Must know how to handle solutions and chemicals according to specifications. Applicant must have good work habits. Must be reliable, dependable and have good work ethics.

Building Maintenance/Repairer
A high school graduate with a minimum of five (5) years work experience specifically in structural repairs. Must possess knowledge and ability to repair and maintain concrete structure to include electrical work, masonry, painting with emphasis on plumbing and carpentry. Must know how to visualize and strategically plan repairs on heavy and serious damages as well as new projects. Applicant must have good work habits. Must be reliable, dependable and have good work ethics.

For more information, please call Mary Sablan at 783-6249.
Resumes may be emailed to: mmssablan@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. DBA: Club C

Cook – Part Time (1)

Requirement:
High school graduate, GED or equivalent plus two (2) year work experience as a cook. Preferable one with experience in Western, Japanese, Korean and Chinese cuisines. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast pace service environment. Able to multi-task and flexible to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Final interview may include a skill test. This position requires examination and clearance for Food Handlers Certificate before hire. Food Handlers Certificate must be valid at all time during employment.

Salary Range - $9.00 - $10.00

Anticipated starting date of Employment: October 01, 2018
Anticipated closing date of employment: September 30, 2019
Interested applicants may pick up an application at our HR Office located within Kanoa Resort, Susupe Beach Road from Monday to Friday between the hour of 10:30AM to 5:30PM. Applications must be supported with resume, diploma or certificate and a valid photo I.D.
Applicant must be eligible to work in the U.S.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Building Maintenance Repairer
8 years minimum work experience required in building maintenance including finishing carpentry, masonry, plumbing installation, tile laying, wood staining and varnishing, plastering, and other maintenance duties as assigned. Knowledgeable in basic building design, construction, and repair. Must have valid CNMI driver's license and transportation. Pay is minimum wage.

Interested applicants may contact 287-9170 or send resume, police clearance, and references to RJR Co. at rjrco@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

1 Building & Grounds Maintenance. $7.05-$7.25/hr. Mail resume to Pacific International Marianas, Inc. dba Midway Motors. P.O. Box 500887, Saipan MP 96950.

QCM, LLC.
Is seeking for the following:
(**6**) **Construction Workers**
U.S. only with 5 years experience in multiple trades.
Must have own reliable transportation, no housing, no insurance. Minimum wage.

Send references, police clearance and resume to QCM, LLC. at PMB 3602 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Residential and Commercial Solar Energy/Electrical Construction Manager

Our firm is looking for the right candidate to help grow our firm and take our company to the next level

Overview
The Residential / Commercial Electrical Construction Manager is part of the project team and is fully responsible for the oversight and management of the project cycle for both Residential and Commercial projects. This includes: project planning, including defining schedule and budgets which meet contract requirements; support of the design process through plan-check and permitting; aiding the Project Manager in defining elements of work and soliciting bids for subcontracted work where necessary; providing direction and supervision of all field activities related to the physical construction; supporting Project Manager in managing the project budget, cash flow, and schedule through the project cycle; oversight of the data management for all project data flows including submittals, RFI's etc.; oversight for all quality and safety requirements on the project; materials and equipment planning and requisition; and planning/management for all general conditions requirements to successfully install the project on-time and within budget, while maintaining required levels for quality and safety.

The Residential / Commercial Electrical Construction Manager is also responsible for ensuring appropriate levels of workers are on site to ensure adequate progress of work, coordination of trades and overall project completion to meet contractual commitments. The Residential / Commercial Electrical Construction Manager reports to the Operation Director of the company.

Responsibilities
- Manage the project cycle for residential / commercial Electrical and PV projects
- Support the design process and permit submittal
- Oversee all field teams and installation progress
- Oversee the Project Manager in defining elements of work and development of subcontracts
- Support the bid process for subcontracted work
- Oversee Project Manager in the development and management project budgets
- Oversee Project Manager to develop and manage the project schedule using MS Project
- Manage daily logs and timesheets for project
- Organize and manage all project data and archive
- Coordinate the work of subcontractors on site
- Acquire subcontract labor, materials or equipment to ensure timely completion of the project
- Conduct site audits for new projects
- Additional duties required as needed

Qualifications
- A minimum of five years of experience in construction of residential and commercial electrical or solar energy projects.
- In-depth knowledge of electrical construction products, practices, subcontracting and project work flow/sequencing
- Certified Project Manager (CPM) certification preferred
- Experience in similar capacity on a project team for commercial projects directing crews or tradesmen in general construction, assembly and/or electrical work
- Detailed knowledge of construction budgets and schedules
- Knowledge of major PV components (PV modules, inverters and racking systems, etc.) preferred
- Ability to lead craftsmen and construction crews
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills requires
- Must have a clean driving record. (Example, no DUI in the last 5 years)
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

Benefits for Full-Time Positions
- Competitive compensation
- Paid training
- Full benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance
- Attractive vacation and holiday pay
- Employee referral program
- Career path opportunities for top performers

Please email your resume to: scarbonneau@micronesiarenewableenergy.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

MRE is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity in the workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, gender identity or any other factor protected by applicable federal, or US Territorial laws.

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician

Overview
Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. is seeking applicants to install residential grid-tied and off grid Solar PV systems. In this position, the PV Installer will provide support to the crew lead of the installation team, communicate job status data to the operations management, and ensure the completion of installation of all solar arrays/systems. It is the responsibility of every Installer to ensure safe work practices for the MRE installation team.

Responsibilities
- Pulling inventory for each installation job
- Pre-assemble job components in the warehouse
- Layout and assembly of solar modules / array and mounting hardware
- Mechanical/structural mounting of racking, modules and electrical equipment
- Electrical wiring of solar array/system (AC and DC)
- Document completion of completed installation
- Cleanup of job site
- Attend mandatory training sessions on new products, installation methodology and safety
- Additional duties required as needed

Qualifications
- 1 year of roof work, general construction, or Electrical required
- Previous solar experience strongly preferred
- Must be able to lift 50lbs
- Ability to work in extreme environments (example: heat, sun, etc)
- Must be willing and able to climb ladders, stairs, work on rooftops and able to work on your feet for long periods of time
- Basic computer skills including familiarity with Microsoft Office programs
- High school diploma or GED required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a clean driving record (example- no DUI in the last 5 years)
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
- Thrive in a team environment

Benefits for Full-Time Positions:
- Above Market Competitive compensation with many positions incentivized
- Paid training with Micronesia's leader in solar power
- Full benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance after 90 days of employment
- Employee referral program
- Career path opportunities for top performers

Please email your resume to: scarbonneau@micronesiarenewableenergy.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

MRE is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity in the workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, gender identity or any other factor protected by applicable federal, or US Territorial laws.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Instant "Massive" BINGO

INSTANT MASSIVE BINGO - SITE OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

A site operations supervisor shall be in charge of all Bingo operations on site. Manages the day-to-day operations including but not limited to cash management, manpower management, vendor management, purchasing management, assets and supplies management and site business relations management. Primarily in-charge of the site's profitability.

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Handles and manages day-to-day Bingo operations such as attending to the daily cash count, ensuring proper implementation of site's standard operating procedures, organizing the staff schedule, handling and resolving staff/players concerns, and reporting site-related issues.
- Compiles, updates and keeps safe all site legal documents (i.e. application of site legal documents such as Business Permits, Lease Contract Renewals, etc.)
- In charge of identification, proper assignment and hiring of manpower needs.
- Assists purchasing by identifying potential vendors, and if needed, gathering of 3 quotations.
- Ensures proper implementation and execution of marketing promotions and activities in coordination with his/her respective Site Marketing Officer.
- Compiles, consolidates and submits required reports as needed by management.
- Handles all check requisitions, Petty Cash Fund, supplies budget and other operations related finances.
- Assists roll out in locating and identifying new potential sites.
- Attends weekly (or as needed) Operations Meeting with the management.

Qualifications:
Education: College Graduate preferred (Management or business-related courses). Lengthy work experience may offset a College Degree.

Work Experience:
- Has worked with and managed an organization or project (advantage)
- Has good performance as a Bingo assistant or cashier (advantage)
- Willing to work irregular hours and overtime
- Must be creative, outgoing, with strong communication skills and initiative
- Strong Bingo and player knowledge or has experience in a retail or service industry with strong customer relations
- Must be independent and can work under stress with minimum supervision Technical Competencies
- Knowledge in Microsoft Office Suite of Applications
- Knowledge in basic computer hardware and software applications
- Knowledge of Bingo games and simple management systems

Other Skills/Competencies
- Above average interpersonal skills – can relate to people from different levels
- People management skills
- Creativity

Annual Salary: $23,000 - $25,000

Applicants must provide a current Resumé with 3 employment references and 3 character references.

Forward Resumés (CV) with references to imb.operations@gmail.com

Charm Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Engine Marine Mechanic
• Must have 2 years experience and able to inspect, repair, replace engine and machinery

(1) Beautician Manager
• Must have 2 years experience, knowledgeable in Skin Care and manage/operate a salon

(2) Beautician
• Must have 3 years experience, knowledgeable in all salon services.

Interested applicants, please call 233-9391 or submit resume to P.O. Box 503332, Saipan MP 96950

Misamis Construction
Now Hiring

- (10) Plumber
- (10) Painter
- (60) Carpenter
- (10) Building Maintenance
- (60) Mason
- (12) Electrician
- (2) Procurement Specialist
- (4) Landscaper
- (10) Commercial Cleaner
- (10) AC Technician
- (10) Sheet Metal Worker
- (30) Construction Worker
- (5) Welders

Local applicants are encouraged to apply.
Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa
Email:misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB18-CCC-071 (A-C)

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 29, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10)12K BTU UNITS (A), ONE (1) 24K BTU UNIT (B), AND TWO (2) 36K BTU UNITS (C) DUCTLESS SPLIT-TYPE AIR-CONDITIONERS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CCC

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-070

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2018 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) MEDIUM DUTY LOW FLOOR ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2018 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NAURU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MERARCY T. DAYRIT Petitioner vs. ANTHONY BRANTLEY Respondent,	] FCD-PA CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 18-0023]] **SUMMONS FOR**] **PUBLICATION**]]

TO THE ABOVE RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2821, Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to he Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of February, 2018.

/s/_____
Deputy Clerk of Court

The Consular Office of Japan is seeking a Driver

1. Qualification Requirements
- US Citizen or individual that are permitted to work legally in US.
- Must be fluent in speaking and understanding English.
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.
- Have no previous record of accident or violation of traffic law and no criminal background history.
- Must have a high confidence as being a professional driver.
- Must be flexible to work early in the morning, late in the evening and on holidays.

2. Working hours, day offs and leaves.
- Working hours are Monday through Friday, 08:30 a.m. to 17:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Sunday and Holidays will be day offs.
- You will receive paid vacation leaves.

3. Salary
- Salaries will be determined by the individuals experience and ability.
- Any duty outside of working hours will be given overtime payment.

4. Procedure on applying for the position
Those who wish to seek the Driver position for the Consular Office of Japan in Saipan, must submit the following documents directly to our office by 26th March 2018, Monday at 12:00 p.m. Please be noted that documents submitted to our office will not be returned.
1. Resume with the applicant photo.
2. Detailed explanation on the reason for applying for the position.
3. Copy of applicant passport or green-card.
4. Copy of the applicant valid driver's license.
5. Police Clearance

5. Selection Process
Screening of Documents, Interview, Driving Test

6. Scheduled employment date
12th April 2018, Thursday

7. Address and Contact Information
Address: Suite 201, MH I BLDG, Marina Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico,
Contact Information: 323-7201/7201

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Closing Date: March 20, 2018

(3) Barber
(4) All-around Beautician
(1) Business Operations Manager
(1) Sales/Accounting Clerk
(1) Air-con Technician

Interested applicants, please send resume to
MANTRADE COMPANY, INC.
P.O. Box 506118, SAIPAN, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DOF/SOF-065

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 09, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" MID-SIZE PICK-UP TRUCKS, 4X4, FOUR-DOORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

JAE HOON CORPORATON D.B.A. PACIFIC GROCERS has openings for:

One (1) General Manager
Minimum Qualifications: Three years of experience as a General Manager for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and ability to read, write and speak Korean sufficiently to negotiate contracts and communicate with Korean speaking customers.
Duties: Manages and directs the company's overall wholesale food operations in Saipan as well as with Korean suppliers. Works in conjunction with company's corporate officers in planning, formulating, and establishing long-term and short-term objectives and goals as well as its marketing and operational policies and procedures. Manages and oversees the day-to-day sales, business, and administrative functions of the company. Manages and directs the company's marketing and sales activities, including implementation of the company's sales policies and marketing strategies; monitors overall sales activities and conformance with sales parameters; and oversees contractual arrangements and import/export financing requirements. Establishes and maintains customer relationships with existing clients and negotiates sales contracts with major customers. Directs and oversees expansion into new product lines and market areas. Exercises discretionary authority over the company's operations and personnel.

One (1) Operations Manager
Minimum Qualifications: Three years of experience as an Operations Manager for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Assists General Manager in managing and directing the company's operations in order to assure operational efficiency and identifies and resolves operational deficiencies. Manages the stock and inventory requirements based on sales orders, inventory, projected volume of sales, and current condition of economy. Supervises the purchase and procurement of merchandise, including import requirements with freight companies and government agencies. Manages assembly and storing of products by workers, filling of orders, and distribution to customers according to sales orders. Ensures compliance with established security, sales, and recordkeeping procedures and implements operational procedures of the company. Assumes the responsibilities of the General Manager in his absence.

One (1) Bookkeeper
Minimum Qualifications: Three years of experience as a bookkeeper or accountant for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items and working knowledge of QuickBooks and SellWise softwares.
Duties: Records company's wholesale business transactions and retains all accounting records. Posts, verifies, and reconciles accounts payable, accounts receivable, expenses, payroll, and other ledger accounts. Prepares preliminary financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information. Prepares payroll and payroll taxes and distributions to government. Prepares gross receipts tax returns. Documents business transactions and verifies purchase orders and other financial transactions in order to substantiate the transactions prior to settlement. Prepares cash reconciliation, balances check books, and makes bank deposits.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Two years of experience as a sales representative for wholesale company with a minimum of 2,500 sales items.
Duties: Sells company's products to retail stores. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders, and collect payment from customers.

If interested, send resume to Jae Hoon Corporation d.b.a Pacific Grocers by email to wonshan@pacificgrocers.com or by fax at 670-288-1239. Proof of qualifications required.

Vicente Castro Camacho
P.O.Box 501723, Saipan, MP 96950
670-287-5351

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: Jaziah Ezikiel Camacho Minor Child By: Vicente Castro Camacho Petitioners	)) FCD GU CIVIL) ACTION NO.) 18-0076)) NOTICE OF) HEARING)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 26, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2018.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: March 22, 2018
TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2018-004

"Accounting Services"

Proposal packets will be available on Wednesday, March 07, 2018, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference is scheduled on Thursday, March 16, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. Only those individuals who have paid the RFP Package Fee are allowed to attend the pre-proposal conference. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670)234-9021, no later than Friday, March 16, 2018, 4:30 p.m. local time. Response to questions shall be shared with all proposers.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Aubry Hocog
Chairwoman,
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director,
Division of Procurement & Supply

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Brees stays with Saints; Peterson, Nelson cut

AP
New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) calls a play at the line of scrimmage during the first half of an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons in Atlanta.

NEW YORK (AP)—Adrian Peterson's short stint in Arizona is over. Jordy Nelson long and productive stay in Green Bay has ended, too.

Meanwhile, Drew Brees is staying put in the Big Easy, Case Keenum is headed to the Rocky Mountains, and Kirk Cousins will make his first visit as a free agent to Minnesota. The Vikings long have been considered a natural landing spot for one of the most valuable quarterbacks available.

One day before the league's new year begins, veteran running back Peterson was released by the Cardinals on Tuesday, and receiver Nelson)—Aaron Rodgers' favorite target)—was let go by the Packers.

Seven-time All-Pro running back Peterson began last season with New Orleans but, after barely playing there, was dealt to the Cardinals. Peterson rushed for 134 yards in a win over Tampa Bay and 159 in a win over San Francisco. In six games, he gained 448 yards on 129 carries for Arizona before being sidelined with a neck injury.

Peterson, who turns 33 next week, ranks 12th in the NFL in career rushing with 12,276 yards.

Nelson had 550 receptions and 69 touchdown catches in 10 seasons in Green Bay. But his production declined last season with Rodgers sidelined much of the year by a collarbone injury. He missed the 2015 season with a major knee injury, and then was the 2016 Comeback Player of the Year.

"We cannot thank Jordy enough for all that he has given the Green Bay Packers and our community for the past 10 years," general manager Brian Gutekunst said. "He has been an exemplary professional and teammate and greatly contributed to our success."

Brees has agreed to a two-year, $50 million extension with New Orleans, with $27 million guaranteed the first year, two people familiar with the contract told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the agreement has not been announced.

Brees is 39 and wants to finish his career in New Orleans, where he has played since 2006, won a Super Bowl and led what has been one of the most productive offenses in the NFL since he and coach Sean Payton arrived.

"I'll be here as long as they'll have me," Brees said after last season ended.

In 2017, Brees completed an NFL-record 72 percent of his passes for 4,334 yards and 23 touchdowns against eight interceptions. He ranked fourth in the NFL in yards passing and the Saints ranked second in the NFL in total offense.

Keenum, a backup when the season began, guided Minnesota to the NFC North title and then into the conference championship game. He'll cash in with the Broncos.

The 30-year-old Keenum is considered the second-best QB available in free agency after Cousins. He went 11-3 with 3,547 yards passing, 22 touchdowns and seven interceptions. His last-second throw to Stefon Diggs stunned the Saints 29-24 in the playoffs.

Denver chose to bypass incumbents Trevor Siemian, Brock Osweiler and Paxton Lynch and go for Keenum, who can't sign until Wednesday.

Six years ago, GM John Elway landed Peyton Manning, the biggest free-agent prize in NFL history, following his release by the Colts and a series of neck fusion surgeries. Manning guided the Broncos to two Super Bowls and won the 2015 NFL championship. Now, Elway hopes another free agent will replicate Manning.

Cousins will visit with the Vikings on Wednesday, agent Mike McCartney said. ESPN reported that Cousins will sign with the Vikings, but McCartney said no decision has been made yet by his client.

The Jets and Cardinals also made sense as fits for the 29-year-old who played consecutive seasons for Washington on franchise tags. New York, however, re-signed last year's starter, veteran Josh McCown, and Arizona made a deal with Minnesota's Sam Bradford.

In other moves, Super Bowl champion Philadelphia lost two tight ends, cutting veteran Brent Celek, then saw Trey Burton agree to a four-year, $32 million contract with Chicago. Five-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Haloti Ngata and linebacker Corey Nelson have agreed to one-year contracts with the Eagles.

The Bears also will be signing Jacksonville receiver Allen Robinson on Wednesday and kicker Cody Parkey.

Tennessee agreed with New England cornerback and one-time Super Bowl hero Malcolm Butler on a five-year deal worth more than $60 million. Agent Derek Simpson told The Associated Press that Butler will sign the deal including $30 million guaranteed once free agency begins.

Sevilla ousts Man United from Champions League

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Frustrated and feeling increasingly uneasy, Manchester United fans unleashed a loud cry of "attack, attack, attack" with their team's Champions League fate hanging in the balance against Sevilla.

It was the Spanish side who answered the call.

Within eight minutes, Sevilla had scored two goals and was heading into the quarterfinals of Europe's top competition for the first time in 60 years.

In the biggest surprise of the last 16, Sevilla eliminated United by winning the second leg 2-1 at Old Trafford on Tuesday, thanks to two goals in the space of four minutes by substitute Wissam Ben Yedder. In the night's other match, Roma advanced after Edin Dzeko scored early in the second half to secure a 1-0 home win over Shakhtar Donetsk, overturning a 2-1 first-leg defeat to advance on away goals.

It was a historic night for Sevilla and an embarrassing one for United, which managed only four shots on target in 180 minutes against one of the weakest defenses left in the competition.

"I don't want to make a drama out of it," United manager Jose Mourinho said, struggling for an explanation for his team's feeble performance. "That's football. It's not the end of the world."

United was lucky to escape from the first leg with a 0-0 draw and it always felt dangerous score line for United.

The longer it went scoreless, the more nervy it got inside Old Trafford. The "attack, attack, attack" chant—made famous during the glory years under Alex Ferguson—came after 70 minutes, and Sevilla's response was to throw on Ben Yedder two minutes later.

The French striker, a former international futsal player, gave the visitors a cutting edge the man he replaced—Luis Murie—didn't offer. Another two minutes later, he ran onto Pablo Sarabia's precise through-ball, got half a meter on marker Eric Bailly and drove a low shot inside the post.

De Gea had no chance with that goal, but could have done more about the second. A Sevilla corner was flicked onto the back post where Ben Yedder stooped to send in a header that De Gea tried to palm over the bar but only succeeded in diverting it into his own net.

Ben Yedder moved onto eight goals in this season's competition and he missed a chance for a hat trick as United's defense fell apart in the latter stages. Only Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo—with 12 goals—has more.

Romelu Lukaku pulled one back for United from close range in the 84th but a late rally couldn't prevent United slipping out of the competition in meek fashion.

"I sat in this chair twice in the Champions League," Mourinho told reporters after the match. "I knock out Manchester United at home at Old Trafford. I sit in this chair with Porto (in 2004), Man United out. I sit in this chair with Real Madrid, Man United out. I don't think it's something new for the club."

But unlike in those victories, Mourinho might have got his tactics wrong this time.

Cruz sustains latest injury for banged-up Mariners

SEATTLE (AP)—Nelson Cruz joined the Seattle Mariners' growing list of injured players.

Cruz hit a two-hop RBI single to the right-field wall in the first inning against Colorado, then walked slowly to the Mariners' dugout while rubbing his right thigh and slightly favoring the leg. He was replaced by pinch runner Daniel Vogelbach, and the Mariners said Cruz had soreness in his right quadriceps.

Second baseman Robinson Cano left Sunday's game because of tightness in his left hamstring, and a scan Monday revealed a minor strain, the Mariners said.

Left-hander Marco Gonzales left his start Monday after 1 2/3 innings when he was hit on his right hand by a comebacker off the bat of Leury Garcia of the Chicago White Sox. Gonzales threw to first for the out, then departed. Seattle said he sustained a bruise.

Ace right-hander Felix Hernandez hasn't pitched in a game since he was hit on the right forearm by a line drive off the bat of the Chicago Cubs' Victor Caratini on Feb. 26.

Other injured players include outfielders Ben Gamel (strained oblique), Mitch Haniger (hand) and Guillermo Heredia (shoulder surgery) and right-hander Erasmo Ramirez (lat strain).

Meanwhile, Tim Tebow was reassigned by the New York Mets to their minor league camp on Tuesday after he went 0 for 4 with four strikeouts in an exhibition against the Houston Astros.

The former NFL quarterback and 2007 Heisman Trophy winner hit .056 (1 for 18) with 11 strikeouts in seven big league exhibition games. The 30-year-old, who is not on the Mets' 40-man roster, has been hampered by a left ankle sprain.

"I'll just continue to work in all the areas we've been working and making progress. That's really the focus –to continue the process and the journey and keep working," Tebow said to reporters following the game.

Spurs hold down Magic, get needed victory

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Kawhi Leonard is still out, but the Spurs welcomed back the confidence and edge they needed to snap a three-game skid.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and San Antonio never trailed after the opening minutes, holding the Orlando Magic to their season's lowest point total in a 108-72 victory on Tuesday night.

"Got to keep it, got to hone in on it, embrace it and use it for motivation," Aldridge said of the Spurs' frustration. "We're fighting for our (playoff) lives right now. So, guys have to use that frustration of losing so many in a row and just come out, just leave it all out there."

San Antonio is still without Leonard, who missed his 59th game of the season while battling right quadriceps tendinopathy. Leonard's injury is a key reason the Spurs are in the unusual position of fighting for a playoff berth after spending much of the previous two decades battling for a top three seed.

San Antonio cannot move any higher than ninth in the West following victories Tuesday by sixth-seeded New Orleans, the seventh-place Los Angeles Clippers and eighth-place Utah. Denver can remain in ninth place ahead of the Spurs with a win over the Los Angeles Lakers.

"It's always good to get a win," said Danny Green, one of six Spurs in double figures. "Hopefully, it's a turning point moving in the right direction for us. Hopefully build some rhythm, some chemistry, some confidence. Different vibe, atmosphere so we can turn it around."

Following consecutive losses to the West's best in Golden State, Oklahoma City and Houston, San Antonio took advantage of an Orlando team that has now lost five straight.

"They obviously came in very motivated," Magic coach Frank Vogel said.

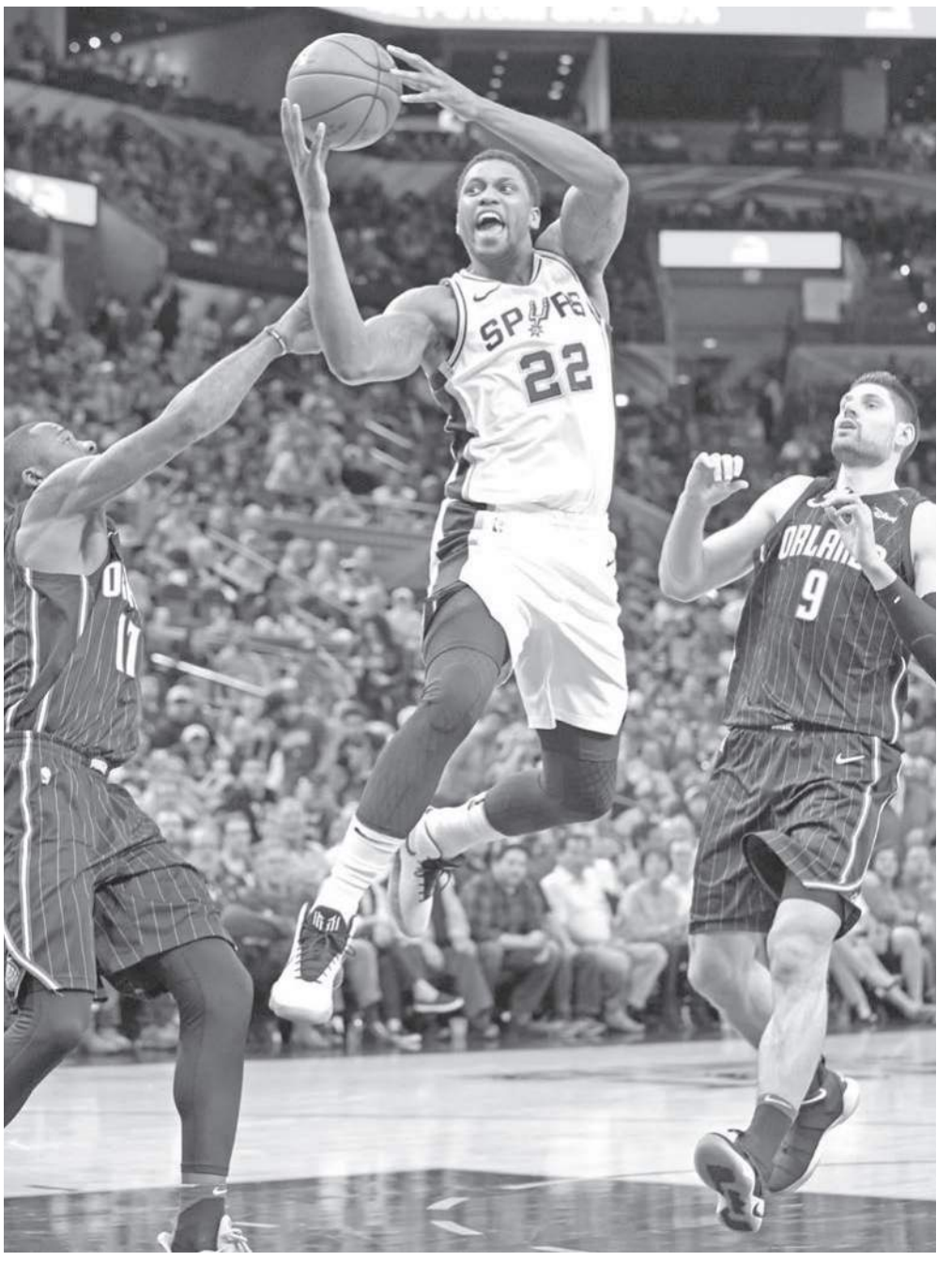
The Spurs have allowed 110.4 points in going 3-8 in its previous 11 games but returned to their defensive foundation for just their second home win in five games.

"Our defense fell down there for a period of time, and it's what we have to do," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We're not going to score on some nights, but the defense has to sustain us. We've got to get back to being one of the better teams in the league on D. We were for most of the year and then we kind of lost it."

The Spurs raced to their largest lead at halftime, 62-37, and extended that 25-point cushion to a 39-point advantage entering the fourth quarter.

Dejounte Murray gave the Spurs their first double-digit lead at 37-26 by stealing a pass intended for Shelvin Mack, dribbling behind his back to avoid Mack's recovery and then racing downcourt for a layup with 8 minutes left in the first half.

Three minutes later, Patty Mills stole the inbounds pass and hit a 3-pointer after getting the ball back from Kyle Anderson for a 50-29 lead



AP

San Antonio Spurs' Rudy Gay (22) attempts to shoot against Orlando Magic's Jonathon Simmons, left, and Nikola Vucevic during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 13, 2018, in San Antonio. San Antonio won, 108-72.

Pacers 101, 76ers 98

In Philadelphia, Myles Turner scored 25 points, including two clutch free throws with 21.5 seconds remaining, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Philadelphia 76ers in a possible Eastern Conference playoff preview.

Thaddeus Young added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the surprising Pacers (40-28), who overcame an off shooting night by leading scorer Victor Oladipo to win their third straight and improve to a season-high 12 games over .500. They were coming off a 99-97 victory at Boston on Sunday night.

Cavaliers 129, Suns 107

In Phoenix, after a couple of tough losses in Los Angeles, LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers went to the desert and took care of Phoenix. The Suns offered little resistance.

In a performance that seemed almost effortless against an outmatched opponent, James earned his 69th career triple-double in a victory that was never close after the first few minutes.

James, averaging a triple-double over his last 15 games, had 28 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. It was his second triple-double in 10 days and No. 14 this season.

Timberwolves 116, Wizards 111

In Washington, Karl-Anthony Towns recovered from a shot to the mouth that left him down on the court and finished with a season-high 37 points and 10 rebounds, leading the Minnesota Timberwolves to a victory over the Washington Wizards.

Towns shot 13 for 17, including making all three of his 3-point attempts, and showed no ill effects after getting knocked in the face with about a minute left in the first half.

Jazz 110, Pistons 79

In Salt Lake City, if there's such a thing as a perfect quarter, the Utah Jazz came close to playing one.

No one could have scripted a better start to Utah's victory over the Detroit Pistons than what unfolded for the Jazz in the first quarter. They never trailed and buried Detroit early behind a barrage of crisp passes and smooth baskets.

Utah went 17 of 21 (81 percent) from the floor in the quarter and scored on its final 10 possessions to take a 42-21 lead at the end of the period.

Mavericks 110, Knicks 97

In New York, Harrison Barnes scored 30 points and the Dallas Mavericks turned around the game in the third quarter on their way to a 110-97 victory Tuesday night over the New York Knicks, who lost their eighth straight game.

Thunder 119, Hawks 107

In Atlanta, Russell Westbrook picked up the 100th triple-double of his career and the Oklahoma City Thunder used a 16-0 run late in the fourth quarter to pull away from the Atlanta Hawks for a victory.

Westbrook scored 32 points, dished out 12 assists and grabbed 12 rebounds to become the third-fastest player to reach the milestone. Only Oscar Robertson (277 games) and Magic Johnson (656) got to No. 100 quicker than Westbrook, who accomplished the feat in his 736th contest.

Raptors 116, Nets 102

In New York, Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 14 rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors won their ninth straight and 16th of 17, over the Brooklyn Nets.

DeMar DeRozan and reserve Fred VanVleet scored 15 points apiece, and Kyle Lowry added 11 points and 11 assists for the Eastern Conference-leading Raptors, who held Brooklyn to 35 points after halftime and won a franchise record-tying seventh straight road game.

Lakers 112, Nuggets 102

In Los Angeles,Isaiah Thomas scored 12 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and the Lakers rallied to beat the Denver Nuggets.

Julius Randle and Kyle Kuzma each had 26 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles, which trailed by as many as 13. Kuzma had only two points in the first half.

The Lakers have won three of four, including a 127-113 victory over LeBron James and Cleveland on Sunday night.

Pelicans 119, Hornets 115

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 31 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots, and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the struggling Charlotte Hornets.

Clippers 112, Bulls 106

In Chicago, DeAndre Jordan dominated with 29 points and 18 rebounds, Lou Williams scored 26 and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Chicago Bulls.

Woods paired with Day, Matsuyama at Bay Hill

ORLANDO (AP)—Another week, another marquee pairing on the PGA Tour featuring Tiger Woods. We could get used to this.

Woods will play the first two rounds of the Arnold Palmer Invitational with Jason Day and Hideki Matsuyama. The star-studded trio tees off Bay Hill's 10th hole at 8:23am ET on Thursday and off No. 1 at 1:08pm on Friday.

Fresh off a runner-up finish at the Valspar Championship, Woods returns to the Arnold Palmer Invitational for the first time since winning the event for a record eighth time in 2013. According to Westgate Las Vegas Superbook, Woods is an overwhelming favorite to win for a ninth time. His 6-to-1 odds are the best in the field, followed by Day, the 2016 API champ, at 12/1.

Matsuyama is making an anticipated return of his own. The five-time PGA Tour winner withdrew before the second round of last month's Waste Management Phoenix Open with a wrist injury and hasn't played since.

Woods' Thursday-Friday playing partners haven't played well in his last two starts. Brandt Snedeker and Patton Kizzire both missed the cut at the Honda Classic and Jordan Spieth and Henrik Stenson also failed to make the weekend at last week's Valspar Championship. Woods and Matsuyama played together in the fourth round of the Farmers Insurance Open earlier this year with Matsuyama shooting 69 at Torrey Pines to Tiger's 72.

Meanwhile, with Woods nearly winning the PGA Tour had its largest television audience in five years.

NBC Sports Group says the final round of the Valspar Championship earned a 5.11 overnight rating, up 190 percent over the previous year and the highest-rated PGA Tour broadcast since Woods won The Players Championship in 2013. That doesn't include the majors.

Woods, returning from a fourth back surgery, was one shot out of the lead going into the final round. He had a 40-foot birdie attempt on the 18th hole to force a playoff with Paul Casey and came up short.

Golf Channel's two-hour window before the NBC telecast Sunday earned a 1.65 rating, its highest-rated coverage for the lead-in window since it began in 2009

Oleai track to partially open

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Oleai track is set to partially open to the public on Monday, March 19, with the Northern Marianas Sports Association and Northern Marianas Athletics imposing minimal fees to help defray the maintenance cost of the facility.

A $2 fee will be collected from each adult joggers and walkers and $1 from children who are under 12 years old. Individuals who will use the facility must first come to the NMSA office to pay the fees. The track will be open from 8am to 7pm or until before sunset, as lights will be on and are reserved only for the training hours of the CNMI national athletics team or any group or squad that made reservation.

JON PEREZ
The Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility will be open for public use next week.

NMA will be the official caretaker of the track and field facility once the memorandum of understanding between the association and NMSA is officially signed sometime next week. Other details of the agreement are being finalized.

The MOU will task NMA to monitor individuals or groups that would use the facility and make sure corresponding fees are paid.

NMA developmental officer Elias Rangamar said they would put up a signboard stating the rules and regulations that should be followed while inside the track facility, and the fees they would be imposing.

"We will strictly implement the rules. There won't be any free use since we need to keep it in good shape in time for the 2021 [Pacific] Mini Games. Groups, schools, and government agencies can also fill out applications to reserve it," said Rangamar.

"We also want to ask the parents or any adult that would bring kids to keep an eye on them to avoid any injury or accidents. We will also be strict with the footwear requirement. Cleats are not allowed," the NMA official said.

Rangamar added that NMA would assign a volunteer to check if fees have been settled and will open only one entrance—the gate near the bleachers.

"A volunteer will monitor the flow of the crowd and make sure they pay first before using the facility. Once we have an idea on how much we may collect every month, then we'll decide if it would be enough to hire a paid staff," said Rangamar. "Or we could get a student for the summer, make it a school requirement and hours would be credited."

McDonald's All Schools qualifiers set next month

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will be holding qualifiers for the 15th Annual McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships next month meet to trim down the number of participants in the field and sprint events in the May finals.

The qualifiers are set for April 4 to 6 and April 9 to 13—from 4pm to 6:30pm at the Oleai Sports Complex. The 15th Annual McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships will run from May 9 to 12 also at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The series of qualifiers is for high jump, long jump, discus, javelin throw, shot put, and softball throw, and in the 60m, 100m, 200m, and 400m runs.

Schools are limited to three entries in each of the above-mentioned events, while there is no limit in the number of entries per school in the middle (800m and 1500m) and long distance (3000m) runs. All schools are automatically qualified for the relay events.

"We can't spend the whole day doing only one event. The competition would be longer if we accommodate everyone in each event, so to avoid this we need a qualifying tournament," NMA development officer Elias Rangamar told *Saipan Tribune*.

Elementary school students (Under 7, U9, and U11) will start their qualifying events on April 4 and 5 for the 60m, 100m, and 200m runs, and long jump, while April 10 and 11 are reserved for the 400m, 800m, and 1500m runs, and softball throw.

Middle school students (U15 and U13) will have their qualifying dates on April 6 (60m, 100m 200m, javelin throw, and long jump) and April 12 (400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m runs, and discus throw, shot put, and high jump).

April 9 (60m, 100m, and 200m runs, and javelin throw, and long jump) and April 13 (400m, 800m, 1500m, and 3000m runs, and discus throw, shot put, and high jump) are reserved for high school students (U15 and U18).

Rangamar added that Green Meadows School, Northern Marianas International School, and the Seventh-day Adventist School would also compete this year, joining previous participants Saipan Community School, Gregorio T. Camacho, William S. Reyes, Agape Christian School, Grace Christian Academy, Oleai, Kagman, Koblerville, Saipan International School, San Vicente, Garapan, and Mt. Carmel School. Tinian and Sinapalo will complete the elementary division.

SCS, SIS, MCS, ACS, Marianas Baptist Academy, Hopwood, Chacha, Tanapag, Francisco M. Sablan, Dandan, Tinian Junior High School, and Rota's Dr. Rita Inos Junior High School are entered in the middle school, while ACS, MBA, MCS, SCS, SIS, Marianas, Kagman, Saipan Southern, Tinian, and Dr. Rita Inos are competing in the high school category.

Bodybuilding entry forms due

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation is reminding those who will be competing in next week's event that all entry forms are due no later than Saturday, March 17.

The competition is now known as the Michelob Ultra Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding & Physique Championships after organizers secured a sponsor for the tournament that is set on March 24 at 2pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center.

The entry fees, which must also be paid on or before March 17, is $10 for NMBPPF members and $15 for non-members. Admission ticket to the event is $10.

The competition is open for men's and women's divisions both in bodybuilding and physique and will have three categories: Junior (under 18), Senior (19 to 40 years old), and Master (Over 41) categories. The women's Junior division will only have the model physique contest.

For more information, email NMBPPF president John Davis at johndavisjr@gmail.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

SCHORR

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classed Bangladesh's Mohamad Rakib Hossain, 6-4, 6-1, to move Pacific Oceania one win away from ruling Group A.

Pacific Oceania eventual took the top spot in its group when Mainguy pounded Mohammad Juel Rana, 6-2, 6-1, in the Singles 1 duel. Mainguy was also scheduled to play in the doubles with Song, but results of their game against Hossain and Mohammad Emon Islam were unavailable at press time.

With Pacific Oceania placing first in Group C, the team may be paired against either Pakistan or Kuwait in the quarterfinals. Pakistan, pending the final results of its last pool play game against Kuwait yesterday, won its first two games, beating Malaysia and Bhutan in similar scores, 3-0. Kuwait was also 2-0, going into its meeting against Pakistan yesterday, as the former prevailed against Bhutan, 3-0, and Malaysia, 2-1. At press time, Pakistan was ahead of Kuwait, 1-0, after Huzaifa Abdul Rehman clobbered Ali Alshatti in the Singles 2 match, 6-0, 6-0.

Meanwhile, in Group B, Syria and Maldives marched into the playoffs, as they finished 1-2 in their pool. Syria got a 2-0 record after downing Bahrain and Maldives in similar scores, 3-0. Maldives saved a quarterfinal ticket as it earlier outclassed Bahrain in last Monday's opener, 2-1.

In Group D, Vietnam and Sri Lanka sealed the Top 2 spots and were battling for the No. 1 seed. Vietnam shut down Tajikistan and Saudi Arabia for its first two wins and the former's game against Sri Lanka was tied, 1-1, at press time last night. The host also blanked Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan to move one win away from sweeping pool play.

The last two teams standing in Sri Lanka will earn slots to the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Qualifying Tournament that will be played in Thailand later this month.

BEARS

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Ethan Babauta lasted three innings, allowing one run on two hits, including a bunt single by R.J. Riungel at the top of the first, while fanning two and walking four.

Kiku Lizama closed out for the Bears and quickly retired Ballistics leadoff batter Adolpho Roppul. Jay Camacho was next at bat for the Ballistics and got on base on a throwing error by second baseman A.J. Lizama. J-Boy Mendiola was then hit by a pitch, putting a second runner on base, but the Bears' defense stepped up with a game-ending double play.

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

his conversion in the first and fourth minute gave his team the early lead before TanHoldings-1 took over en route to the easy win.

Meanwhile, lurking behind TanHoldings-1 is MP United, which now has a 3-1-0 slate. MP United notched its third win last weekend after slipping past Matansa, 5-4.

Andrew Chung scored three goals with his last one minute before the match wrapped up giving MP United the close victory. Chung's two other goals were recorded in the 14th and 57th minute, while Dev Bachani and Evan Mendiola added one apiece for MP United. Bachani's goal two minutes before the first half ended put MP United on top, 2-1, and a shot from Mendiola in the 41st minute gave the team more breathing room.

Philip Regino registered Matansa's lone goal in the first half and the squad went on to grab THE LEAD, 4-3, with five minutes left in the game, as Jin Xin Wen scored in the 43rd minute and Jose Rafael Lopez and Megino found their targets in the 54th and 55th, respectively.

However, Matansa failed to keep the shaky lead when Chung countered with back-to-back goals down the homestretch.

In other results, Kanoa-1 crushed TanHoldings-2, 9-2.

Kanoa earned its second win against one draw and one loss for third place in the team standings, while TanHoldings-2 is still winless after four games to remain at the cellar of the six-squad field.

Leland Isaiah Deleon Guerrero delivered three goals for Kanoa-1, while Sophia Quintos knocked in two. Paulo Quidato, Ruben Guerrero, Devin Propst, and John Mark Anastacio also scored for the winning team. Mary Joy Aniana registered the pair of goals for TanHoldings-2.

2018 Saipan Marathon

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas Visitors Authority staff, center, poses with runners dressed in Captain America, left, and Ironman costumes while waiting for the start of last Saturday's 2018 Saipan Marathon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners in the 10K race head out to the course.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A young runner is about to finish the 10K event.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Department of Fire cadets leave the starting line for the 10K race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Several runners are about to cross the finish line.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Alyona Gersonde celebrates her first place finish (age group) in the full marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan general manager Wendi Herring, ninth left, joins her staff for a group photo at their aid station across the Saipan Mayor's Office in Beach Road.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan staff cheers on and offers fruits to a runner cruising along Beach Road.

Brees stays with Saints; Peterson, Nelson cut

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Schorr, Song top elims

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ken Song, seen here returning a shot to Robbie Schorr during their singles game in the 2017 TanHoldings Tennis Classic, teamed up with his fellow CNMI player in handing Pacific Oceania a win against Lebanon in the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event in Sri Lanka last Monday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Ken Song powered Pacific Oceania to a sweep in the elimination round of the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event.

Song and Schorr and Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy shut down Lebanon, 3-0, last Monday at the Sri Lanka Tennis Association's clay court in Colombo, and then sealed an early win against Bangladesh, 2-0, yesterday to top Group A and advance to the quarterfinal round of the 14-team field.

Schorr handed the Jeff Race-captained Pacific Oceania its first win in the qualifier as the 15-year-old crushed Andre Eleftheriadis in their less than an hour Singles 2 match, 6-0, 6-0. Mainguy then gave theit team the outright win when he also swept Marco Antonio Azar in the Singles 1 tiff, 6-2, 6-3. Pacific Oceania went on to complete its domination of Lebanon as Schorr and Song teamed up in beating Azar and Eleftheriadis in the lone doubles match in the pairing. The two CNMI players took only 55 minutes to finish off the Lebanese duo, 7-5, 6-0.

For their second assignment in the elimination, Schorr again played in Singles 2 and out-

See SCHORR on Page 26

Bears down Ballistics in SBL

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Lizamas are at it again, with cousins Henry and Jose Jr. delivering for the C.K. Bears in their 16-8 triumph over the Ballistics in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

Henry Lizama drove in four runs, went 3-for-5 at bat, and had an RBI triple in the Bears' six-run scoring surge at the bottom of the fourth. He also touched home plate three times before ending his plate appearance with an infield fly. Jose Lizama went 4-for-5 with two triples, three runs, and a bases-loaded two-RBI single in the fourth to bring in Virgil Secharmidal and cousin Kiku Lizama, who led off the inning with a single.

Not even a more than five-minute rain delay could stop the Bears from clinching their third win in four games. The impressive victory also took away the pain of their 14-4 loss to the defending champions Aces last Friday.

The Ballistics dropped to 1-3 after earning their first win against the Outlaws, 15-8, last March 6.

Kiku Lizama went 2-for-5 with one run, while Secharmidal scored twice and hit 2-for-6 to help the Bears' cause.

Shakobe Rangamar pitched five innings in relief for the Bears, giving up three earned runs on seven hits—two infield hits—and posting five strikeouts and four walks.

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JON PEREZ
Shakobe Rangamar, center, warms up while C.K. Bears coach Phil Celis, left, and teammate Jose Lizama look on before their game against the Ballistics in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club-1, left, and TanHoldings FC-1 players battle for the ball during an earlier game in the co-ed U13 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Kanoa-1 and TanHoldings-1 cruised to victory against their respective foes last Saturday.

TanHoldings-1, MPU keeps unbeaten records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club-1 and MP United FC are still undefeated in the co-ed U13 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

TanHoldings-1 improved to a 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record and remained at the top spot in the team standings following an 8-2 rout of Kanoa FC-2 last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Ariel Narvaez powered TanHoldings-1 to a lopsided victory after making a hat trick. He got his first goal in the 11th minute and then nailed back-to-back in the 22nd and 24th. Mark Joseph Roque chipped in two, scoring in the 19th and 44th minute, while Javen Montenegro, Angelo Pulido, and Harry Domulot contributed one apiece after lighting up the board in the 11th, 54th, and 59th minute, respectively.

Kanoa-2, on the other hand, drew its pair of goals from Markus Pelisamen, as

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26